

## Iran seeks U.N. clarification

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday Tehran had accepted a United Nations proposal to revive diplomatic talks with Iraq, Tehran Radio reported. But Velayati added that points of the plan must be clarified before the two countries can hold direct talks. Velayati said Iran's decision to accept a proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the two countries to sit down for two months of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement, had been communicated to the U.N. The radio, monitored in Riyadh, quoted Velayati as saying that Perez de Cuellar would have to clarify how the points of U.N. Resolution 598, which both countries accepted previously to the August 1988 ceasefire in their eight-year conflict, would be followed. "We will complete one point and only then go to the other point," Velayati said. The Iranians demand that Iraqi forces have to withdraw from Iranian territory seized in the closing weeks of the war before any other points can be discussed. Iraq still occupies about 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory.

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## King congratulates Abdou Diouf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to Senegal's Abdou Diouf on the occasion of his country's national day. King Hussein expressed his best wishes to the president and the people of Senegal.

## Badran meets Tapline official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran had a meeting in his office Tuesday with Harry Alter, trans-Arabian pipeline company vice-president with whom he discussed the Kingdom's relations with the company, based in Saudi Arabia. The company's representative in Jordan Jamal Sarach who is also Parliament member representing Karak and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher were present at the meeting.

## Contract signed for agricultural lab

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture, Sulaiman Arabiyat, signed on behalf of the government a \$2.5 million contract with Hamilton Industries for laboratory casework. The contract is part of the larger national agricultural development project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Michael Stringer, vice-president for marketing and sales, signed on behalf of Hamilton Industries. The casework, fixed laboratory equipment, and related items will be manufactured at Hamilton's facilities in Wisconsin, USA, and will be shipped to Jordan for installations beginning in early 1991. The bulk of the equipment is destined for the Ministry of Agriculture's National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer at Baqa. Regional Agricultural Services Centres at Ramtha, Mushagha, Rabba, and Shobak will also receive some of this equipment.

## U.N. chief opposes veto power for Japan, Germany

PARIS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview published Tuesday he was opposed to an extension of Security Council veto power to Japan and a unified Germany. "There are people who say that the right of the veto (exercised by the present five permanent members) is unjust," Perez de Cuellar told the Paris daily Le Figaro. "So why should it be necessary to increase the number of countries that exercise it?" He added: "We already have enough problems dealing with five. It will be much more difficult coping with seven. In any case that will open the door. The Latin Americans will say why not us. And the Africans too. The veto power should not be enlarged. (It would be) better to restrict it."

## 35 prisoners give up after riot

MANCHESTER (AP) — Thirty-five inmates who had rioted at a Manchester prison surrendered Tuesday morning after a three-day siege, but a fight broke out when 20 more prisoners tried to give up. The 20 inmates who tried to surrender were physically blocked by other prisoners and two police officers were injured in the clash, said Ivor Serle, chairman of the local branch of the prison officers' association. After the initial 35 inmates gave up Tuesday morning, British authorities had said they were negotiating with the remaining 64 prisoners, trying to bring an end to the three days of rioting in which at least 51 people were injured.

## Lebanese army captain shot dead

SIDON (R) — Three masked gunmen shot dead a Lebanese army officer in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. They said the unidentified men who were in a green BMW car intercepted Captain Youssef Na'aman as he left his house in the village of Abra east of the southern port city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

## 'Saddam Hussein did not threaten anybody, but affirmed Iraq's ability to face aggression'

# King defends Iraq, hits U.S. Senate resolution

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday defended Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons as part of Iraq's legitimate right of self defence.

"It is a concerted campaign (against Iraq) and we are aware of its origins and objectives," the King said. "It springs from an old and deep-rooted enmity towards the Arab Nation, and from aggressive designs to prevent Arabs from achieving progress and strength," he said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Iraq's victory in defending its national soil and the Arab Order, and its consistent quest for peace,

progress, and development have aroused the grudge of the enemies of our nation who orchestrated the campaign, basing it on false suppositions and fabricated tales which they continue to invoke, although they have been proved to be untrue. This is why President Saddam Hussein did not threaten anybody, but affirmed Iraq's ability to face any planned aggression, and its legitimate right to defend itself against any attack on its existence and progress. President Saddam made this statement only after the campaign against Iraq reached a delicious pitch," the King said.

Saddam Hussein Monday announced that his country had developed deadly binary nerve gas weapons and warned Israel that he will use them to destroy half of

the Jewish state if Israel attacks Iraqi installations. He said Iraq developed the weapons before the end of its war with Iran but did not use them in the war.

Iraq, unlike Israel, had signed a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and allowed international inspection of its facilities.

The King said: "Israel is a nuclear power that refuses to sign the nuclear arms Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iraq, on the other hand, signed and ratified the treaty, which means that Iraqi nuclear installations are open for inspection by an international organisation. Nevertheless, we see that the campaign concentrates on Iraq and not on Israel, the only state in the Middle East to have nuclear arms. This means, simply, that aggressive

intentions lie behind the campaign."

He said the "iniquitous campaign now waged against Iraq makes it incumbent on all Arabs to waste no time in closing their ranks and unifying their positions to protect our Arab identity and nation, and affirm the Arab national right to scientific and technological progress."

King Hussein also criticised last month's U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and should remain so.

The resolution ... harms the exports being made to bring peace to the Middle East, and diminishes the hope of achieving peace," the King said. "The resolution came as a surprise to us

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## Iraq calls for emergency Arab meeting for solidarity

TUNIS (Agencies) — Iraq has asked the Arab League Council to hold an emergency meeting to express solidarity with Baghdad against Israel, the United States and other foreign powers considered hostile, a league official said Tuesday.

The league circulated the request to member states Monday and the meeting at ambassador level will probably take place on Thursday. Assistant Secretary-General Adnan Omran told Reuters.

Iraq wants the meeting to discuss "the hostile campaigns against Iraq by Israel, the United States and certain powers and Arab solidarity in the face of these campaigns," he added. "Tension between Iraq and the West is higher after Britain and the United States accused Baghdad of trying to buy U.S.-made triggers for nuclear bombs and smuggle them through Britain. Iraq President Saddam Hussein said Monday there was a plot against Iraq and warned that chemical weapons would be used in retaliation against any Israeli attack on his country."

Iraqi staged rallies throughout the country Tuesday to support Hussein and his announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons.

Iraqi officials, meanwhile said that the president's vow to incinerate half of Israel if attacked

was meant to head off an Israeli assault, and not as a threat of aggression.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) also backed Iraq's stand that it was the victim of a campaign to curb its might as a regional force able to tip the balance of power in the Middle East in favour of the Palestinians.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in a statement the campaign against Iraq was part of a "complicated plot to curtail the development of this country as the nucleus of power for the whole Arab Nation..."

"And as the place to remedy the chronic imbalance between the Arab Nation and its enemies, the threats by Israel, America, Britain and others are no more than an expression of the fear of this Iraqi emergence," he said. A U.S. spokesman described the Iraqi warning to Israel as irresponsible and outrageous.

"In a region already volatile enough, nobody should be trumpeting chemical weapons," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said of Iraq. "They should be trumpeting their destruction."

Tutwiler said the State Department has not confirmed the scope of Iraq's chemical weapons arsenal.

"We have seen these reports, and if they are true, what we have

seen is inflammatory, irresponsible and outrageous," Tutwiler said, reading from a prepared statement that she described as "very strong."

Demonstrators marched in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities carrying banners condemning the United States, Britain and Israel for interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

Demonstrators in Baghdad, carrying huge portraits of the president, denounced the "Anglo-American-Zionist conspiracy," which Hussein said was planned against his country. They chanted slogans lauding the achievements of the Iraqi military industry.

An Iraqi official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said his country's officials believe "there is a military operation designed by the Israelis with the authorisation and encouragement of the United States of America and Britain."

He cited Israeli warnings in recent months about Iraq's growing military strength. Hassan himself said Western criticism of Iraq for executing a British-based reporter on spying charges and its attempts to purchase electronic parts allegedly intended for atomic bombs was intended to pave the way for an Israeli attack.

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## Israelis launch 'spy' satellite; Iraqi warning dominates news

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel launched its second satellite into orbit Tuesday and its political leaders responded defiantly to an Iraqi warning of retaliation if the Jewish state attacked Iraqi installations.

A rocket carrying the Ofek-2 probe, said by foreign sources to be a military reconnaissance satellite, blasted off from a launchpad in central Israel at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT). A large crowd of journalists and sightseers watched from a distance.

The satellite is widely viewed in the Arab World as a spy craft that will allow Israel to have immediate intelligence on Arab military moves.

But Israel space agency head Yuvaal Neeman denied that the satellite had any military purpose.

Neeman denied a Time magazine report that Ofek-2 was a spy probe carrying a sophisticated electro-optical camera.

"It has already completed about an orbit and a half of the earth. The data are as planned," he said on television. "This satellite has no cameras... it is not carrying any cargo that carries out a job."

Israel went ahead with the launch a day after Iraqi President

Saddam Hussein disclosed that his country possessed binary chemical weapons and threatened to burn half of Israel if it struck at Iraq.

Prime minister Yitzhak Shamir retorted that Israel knew how to defend itself.

Officials said the timing of the space shot was not linked to the Iraqi threat. But Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said the launch showed "the defence technology of the state of Israel is of a high level — I would say far higher than that of Iraq."

In September 1988, Israel launched what it called an experimental communications satellite — Ofek-1 — into orbit.

Iraq launched a space rocket of its own with great fanfare last December, apparently without a payload.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, trying to form a new government after his coalition with Shamir collapsed last month, said the Jewish state was not looking for war but for security.

Asked if the launch was a message to Iraq, he told reporters: "I think it reminds him that if he wants to deal with Israel he should look for other means than military."

Military censors bar journalists

in Israel from reporting on Israel's nuclear, chemical or missile programmes.

Photographers at the launch site said the rocket roared westwards over the Mediterranean sea, blazing a flaming trail of white exhaust into a clear sky.

Israel is the only country that has launched satellites from east to west, against the earth's rotation, apparently to avoid any risk of the rocket falling on Arab states.

Both the satellites and the boosters were manufactured by the state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries, the country's largest military-industrial concern.

Only eight other countries have successfully launched satellites — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, Britain, Japan, India and Italy, according to the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Iraq's warning against Israel came after Britain last week arrested three people and deported an Iraqi said to be involved in alleged attempts to smuggle nuclear triggers to Iraq.

Iraq fears that Israel, widely believed to have its own atom

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## Badran praises Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday that the Iraqi stand, as voiced by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday, "is an honourable one which all Arabs should be proud of."

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Badran called for a "united Arab stand to fend off the challenges and conspiracies being hatched against the Arab Nation and its interests."

"This pan-Arab stand should also include a call for peace, respect for the rights of others and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states," he said.

Badran stressed that relations among nations should be based on "civilised humanitarian and moral bases, which do not discriminate between the great powers and the small powers."

Badran wished Iraq further strength, power and glory and the Iraqi leader every success in serving the causes of the Arab Nation.

## Arafat asks Italy's help

ROME (AP) — Yasser Arafat suggested in an interview published Tuesday that Italy support economic sanctions against Israel to force it to negotiate a settlement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Arafat is due here Thursday for talks with Italian officials and an audience with Pope John Paul II. In an interview in Tunis with the Tunisian newspaper La Stampa, Arafat had asked what could be done to ease Israel's opposition to direct negotiations with the PLO. "Sanctions. Tough. Severe. They work," he was quoted as replying, citing South Africa as an example. "Economic sanctions. In this field, Italy can do a lot." He noted that on July 1, Italy assumes the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC) for the next six months. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Arafat met Wednesday in the French capital, a newspaper and radio station reported Monday. Neither Radio Monte Carlo or the Arab-language newspaper Al Hayat said what would be on the agenda. A spokesman for the Carter Centre in Plains, Georgia, said Carter hoped the meeting with PLO leader would go forward but that nothing was firm.

## King voices support for Kohl's reunification effort

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday voiced support for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's efforts to reunify the two Germanys and wished Kohl all possible success for this unity. It was the first formal Jordanian statement on efforts for German reunification and came in a cable the King sent to Chancellor Kohl congratulating him on his 60th birthday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King wished the West German leader happiness and good health and expressed hope that Jordanian-West German relations would be further enhanced.

## ACC foreign ministers meet in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will meet in Amman today to discuss a host of issues, including the recent threats to Iraq, the U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Tuesday.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Qasem said that the meeting would also discuss the ongoing Israeli threats to Jordan and re-

ferred to the recent official Israeli statements, which consider any inter-Arab coordination constitutes a threat to the Israeli security.

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammur said the meeting would cover regional and world developments including British-Iraqi relations in light of what he called an anti-Iraq campaign being waged by London.

The ACC, formed last year by Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, tries to coordinate foreign as well as economic policy.

## Peres' coalition efforts pick up momentum

TEL AVIV (AP) — A pivotal religious party signed a coalition agreement Tuesday with the Labour Party, and party leader Shimon Peres said it gave him the basis for forming "a rather solid government."

After signing the accord with the Agudat Israel faction, Labour leaders met in Tel Aviv to consider asking for parliament to convene Thursday to vote in a new government, Israeli radio said. The importance of the agreement is that Agudat, which had been wavering in its support for Peres, formally agreed to join a Labour-led government.

Israel Radio said the accord with the ultra-orthodox party created a political momentum that gave Peres good chances of breaking his 60-60 deadlock with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc in the parliament.

Peres was assigned by President Chaim Herzog to compose a government after Shamir's Likud-Labour cabinet was toppled in a parliament vote of no confidence March 15. The crisis was triggered by a dispute over Middle East peace proposals.

Agudat Israel legislator Rabbi Meisachem Porush strongly hinted Tuesday that two break-away Likud members, Avraham Sharir and Yitzhak Modai, were nearing an agreement with Peres, and that other ultra-orthodox parties would also join a Labour government.

"I hope that soon we will not only have 61 (members of parliament), but that we will have 71," Porush told Israeli army radio. "This is not a guess. I speak from the knowledge and the contacts I have with those who count."

But Modai denied later Tuesday that he was joining a Peres government, army radio quoted a Modai spokesman as saying.

According to army radio, Peres has promised key ministerial posts to Sharir and hardliner Modai, who is economic affairs minister in Shamir's caretaker government.

Peres was optimistic over the agreement with Agudat.

"This is quite revolutionary, and this means that we have closed completely the agreement and have established the basis to form a rather solid government, whether narrow or wide," he told reporters in Tel Aviv after the signing.

"I believe that we are the only one who can form a government," Peres added.

But a sticking point in negotiations remained Modai's demand that Israel refrain for at least six months from accepting Middle East peace proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, army radio said.

# Geagea throws his weight behind Hrawi

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese warlord Samir Geagea gave his allegiance to the country's president on Tuesday in a bid for support in his war for the Christian enclave.

Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces (LF) militia has been fighting forces loyal to renegade General Michel Aoun for two months, implicitly accepted an Arab-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war.

"The solution in Lebanon is by recognizing President Elias Hrawi as president of the republic and considering the Taif agreement an introduction to that settlement," Geagea said in an interview with

the communist Voice of the People radio.

The inter-Christian war, in which nearly 900 people have been killed, broke out at the end of January when Aoun ordered the LF to disband and demanded the Geagea reject the Taif pact.

Aoun, who refuses to recognise Hrawi, opposes the Taif accord signed by Lebanese deputies in October because it makes no provision for total withdrawal of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Analysts and Christian politicians said Geagea's remarks were an implicit appeal to Hrawi to back him against Aoun, whose troops he stands little chance of defeating alone.

"Geagea wants to avoid a new military showdown which could drain his military might. He wants Hrawi to intervene while his men still control two-thirds of the Christian enclave," said one Christian politician.

"He knows that a war of attrition is not in his favour because he has 300 men as a striking force while Aoun still has 1,000," said the politician.

Hrawi has previously turned down an indirect plea for help from Geagea because he failed to recognise his authority and accept the Taif agreement. There was no immediate reaction from Hrawi

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## Moscow, Lithuania seek to soften dispute; secession law approved

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lawmakers Tuesday endorsed a bill formalising procedures for a republic to secede from the Soviet Union as leaders in Lithuania and Moscow tried to soften their dispute over the Baltic republic's independence declaration.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's top deputy spoke of "friendly ties" with Lithuania and said the Kremlin does not question its right to secede — as long as the Baltic republic follows proper constitutional procedures.

The comments by Anatoly I. Lukyanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet parliament, came as Lithuanian leaders sought a compromise in their three-week-old confrontation with the Kremlin.

The Lithuanians want to open negotiations with Moscow without having to heed Gorbachev's demands that they renounce their

March 11 declaration of independence.

Despite the conciliatory tone between leaders on both sides, the Soviet government on Tuesday closed Lithuania's border with Poland, the Polish Foreign Ministry said. The closed crossing is Lithuania's only border that does not adjoin Soviet territory.

Soviet officials informed their counterparts at the Polish border that the crossing from the Polish town of Odrognik to the Lithuanian town of Lazdijai was "temporarily" closed at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT), the Polish news agency PAP said.

Meanwhile, legislators in the Baltic Republic of Estonia, which is taking a more cautious approach to independence, passed a resolution in support of Lithuania and urged Gorbachev to open talks.

The Estonian Supreme Soviet "expresses full support of their striving, pays high tribute to their courage and expresses recognition of the independent state organisation of Lithuania," said the declaration.

A Lithuanian delegation arrived in Moscow prepared to compromise on its bid for secession.

The delegation said it was flexible about the process leading to independence. Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas told reporters at Moscow's railway station: "We can compromise on anything but not the basic thing — our independence."

But the Council of Nationalities overwhelmingly approved a law on secession which would insist on exactly the sort of pre-independence conditions the Lithuanians reject.

## E. German coalition talks begin

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's main political parties began talks Tuesday on forming the country's first non-communist government and probably its last before German unification.

Attempts to forge a coalition, on the brink of collapse Monday, were rescued and then surprisingly gathered pace Tuesday with both the major parties predicting early progress.

"We'll certainly have a government ready for approval (in parliament) before Easter, I think on April 10," said Martin Kirchner, general secretary of the Christian Democrats (CDU).

Full-blown negotiations started just hours after the Social Democrats (SPD) dropped earlier reservations and agreed to enter talks with the Conservative Alliance for Germany.

The alliance, a three-party group headed by the CDU, won more than 40 per cent of the vote

in free elections March 18.

Acting SPD leader Markus Meckel said he envisaged a coalition pact being sealed within two weeks if negotiations went as well as exploratory talks with the CDU last Sunday.

A smaller liberal grouping, the Alliance of Free Democrats (BFD), joined Tuesday's talks with the second-placed SPD at CDU headquarters on East Berlin's Academy Square.

CDU leaders flew back for the talks from Bonn where they celebrated the 60th birthday of their patron, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Despite the volte-face, SPD leaders told a news conference the talks would not be an easy ride for the conservatives.

The party would claim several cabinet posts, including foreign and internal affairs, labour and education. Meckel, 37, said there were

three major conditions for entering a coalition — consideration of SPD policies, cabinet posts and clear division of responsibilities in the coalition.

The SPD's startling move reflected the switchback ride East German politics has been following since the hardline Communists, who had ruled for 40 years, were overthrown last year.

The leadership of the SPD, which took about 20 per cent of the vote, had fought shy of formal negotiations because the CDU insisted on having its alliance partner, the right-wing German Social Union (DSU), in the coalition.

The SPD leadership decided Monday against a coalition and urged the party's 88 deputies in the 400-seat parliament should back them. But at joint talks later on Monday the leaders were overruled.



# Iraqi reprisal threat draws Arab admiration

AMMAN (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat that if attacked he would wipe out half of Israel with chemical weapons won Arab admiration and approval Tuesday.

"We fully understand the importance of protecting the integrity of Iraq and defending its national interest," said an official Jordanian source, who asked not to be named.

"The president's speech was a measured reaction to the threats Iraq is feeling from many parts of the world," he said. "It's a message that you can't hit Iraq without a reaction."

Iraq's arch-enemy Syria kept silent on the Iraqi president's fiery speech Monday.

But political analysts in Amman said Hussein had struck a resounding chord among Arabs who felt humiliated by Israel's military strength, frustrated at Western support for the Jewish state and angry at the wave of Israel-bound Soviet Jewish migrants.

"The Arabs feel the whole world is against them," said Mustafa Hamarneh, a history professor at Jordan University, describing campus reaction to the Iraqi leader's speech.

Hussein's defiant remarks made the top headlines in televi-

sion and radio news bulletins and newspapers around the Arab World.

Gulf newspapers supported his stand.

The semi-official United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad attacked the U.S. and its Western allies for condemning Iraq's chemical weapons threat.

"The U.S. and Israeli reactions to the Iraqi president's statements clearly show the injustice suffered by the Arab nation at the hands of the United States in particular and the West in general."

"If Israel acquires a nuclear, or non-nuclear weapons arsenal, America naturally remains silent because it supplies Israel with the most sophisticated arms," Al Itihad said.

"But when Arab countries try to obtain a weapon to ensure their right of self-defence, this opens the doors to a deluge of American and Western provocative statements and threats to attack that country," it said.

"The Iraqi president's announcement to destroy half of

Israel came at the right time," Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej daily said.

"Arab acquisition of chemical weapons and other missiles capable of reaching Tel Aviv marks a big change in the Arab-Israeli power balance... Iraq's statement is a declaration of Arab capability to confront Israel and its aggression."

A Palestine Liberation Organisation leader praised what he called Hussein's courage and the Iraqi army's readiness to defend itself and any Arab country from possible aggression.

"We hail President Hussein for his great speech which reflects his confidence in himself and in the strength of the Iraqi army on which he still pin great hope for liberating Palestine," Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council, told Reuters.

"They see the anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian events of recent months. They feel enough is enough and Saddam gave them morale a boost. Even anti-Baathists are saying Saddam is an Arab leader with vision," he said.

Jordan, a close ally of Baghdad, appears to see an Iraqi military umbrella as a deterrent to Israeli rightwingers who favour

mass expulsion of West Bank Palestinians into Jordan.

Jordan television gave prominent coverage to Hussein's speech in which he said Iraq had binary chemical weapons and would use them to retaliate for any Israeli attack.

"The Arabs need someone to say how they can defend themselves," the Jordanian official source said. "Coming from a leader who has won a war it has credibility and must be taken seriously. The West must realise it can't push Iraq around."

"Perhaps Saddam should not have boasted about his chemical weapons and just kept them for retaliation — but I welcome any military power that can stop Israel or make Soviet Jews think twice before coming to Israel," the official said.

The Arabs might have disregarded similar threats by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, but had respect for Iraq, he added. "Saddam has military, oil and brain power. Arabs are ready for a power that can respond to Israel in an era of total collapse, especially after events in Eastern Europe," he said.

Jordan and Iraq belong with Egypt and North Yemen to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), a mainly economic

alliance formed last year. ACC foreign ministers plan to meet in Amman this week to discuss what they call Britain's anti-Iraq campaign.

Kamel Abu Jaber, a political science professor at Jordan University, said he hoped Hussein's speech would not give Israel a pretext for an attack on Iraq or Jordan.

"Iraq is reacting to the storm against it in the Western media... and cautioning Israel not to start anything," he said, recalling Israel's 1981 raid on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor.

Abu Jaber said Israel, not the Arabs, had introduced ballistic missiles and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons into the Middle East and had rejected all Arab peace overtures.

"The Arabs and the Palestinians are flat on their bellies begging people to persuade Israel to sit down and talk peace," he said. "Our skies are open to Israeli warplanes. How are we going to defend ourselves? Are we supposed to go to Australia?"

"Iraq's president talks with Europe in the only language which it recognises... force," Qatar's Al Sharq newspaper said. "Hussein's word was a warning for all against any aggression especially Israel," Kuwait's Al

Qabas daily said.

"This warning is a clear sign of Iraq's intention and reiterates Iraq will not compromise its security or principles."

"The tension in the region has risen to a boiling point... in hours or days," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam said.

"A preemptive Israeli attack is a firm and continuous policy... This requires a quick Arab move to confront with all its resources the Israeli road towards the Euphrates," it said.

"If President Hussein's words would deter Israel from carrying out evil acts, then it was necessary. Israel might recognise that its future with the Arabs would only be through peace," the English-language Qatari Gulf Times said.

**Iraq calls chemical weapons a threat**

NICOSIA (R) — A top Iranian official said Tuesday Iraq's possession of sophisticated chemical weapons posed a threat to Iran and complicated a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

Ahmad Azizi, head of the Iranian delegation to a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nicosia, told Reuters that Iran would take measures to defend itself.

## Lebanese government wants foreigners out of SLA-controlled zone

BEIRUT (AP) — The government of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi has asked U.N. peacekeepers to expel foreigners living illegally in the Israeli-controlled sector of South Lebanon, it was reported Tuesday.

The state-run National News Agency said the director of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Department, Ahmad Ibrahim, made the request Monday to a delegation from the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The dispatch said a two-man delegation from UNIFIL's command visited Ibrahim at his office in Muslim west Beirut Monday. It did not disclose the identities of the two delegates.

Ibrahim made the request a week after three masked gunmen shot and killed American Christian missionary William Robinson at his home in the southern village of Rashaya Foukhar after he was accused of trying to set up an Israeli settlement.

Robinson was living in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. There were conflicting reports over whether he had a residence permit from Lebanese authorities.

No estimate was available of the number of foreigners still living in South Lebanon.

The Lebanese Communist Party claimed responsibility for Robinson's assassination.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front, which groups the Communist Party and 11 other groups, threatened in a statement issued a day after Robinson's assassination that "all those who try to establish enemy settlements in our land will be liquidated."

The Israelis have controlled the 10-to-16 kilometre deep enclave since they withdrew their bulk of their invading army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985.

The zone, which extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the foothills of Mount

Hermion in the east, was set up to control cross-border guerrilla infiltrations into northern Israeli settlements.

The zone overlaps in several parts with the area of operations of the nine-nation, 5,800-strong UNIFIL, which has been deployed in South Lebanon since Israel first invaded part of the region in March 1978.

The agency quoted Ibrahim as telling the UNIFIL delegates, "in order to preserve the prevailing trust between the southern and UNIFIL... the peacekeepers should aid the Lebanese authority in evicting all illegal aliens living in their area of operations."

Ibrahim, the newsletter said, also asked UNIFIL to "enforce Lebanese law which does not permit foreigners to reside and buy property in an area that lies on the internationally recognised borders."

The Lebanese official, according to the report, asked UNIFIL specifically to "expel all foreigners living in the government school in Rashaya Foukhar which was controlled by Robinson." It did not disclose further details.

Rashaya Foukhar is 13 kilometres northeast of the Israeli border, inside the security zone.

Robinson, 56, a former U.S. Marine from Chicago, was buried Thursday in the Protestant cemetery in the town of Hasbaya. Several officers of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia attended the funeral.

Robinson's American widow, his four sons and 29 Lebanese children he was caring for lived in the school at Rashaya Foukhar.

The Beirut paper An Nida said Mrs. Robinson, her sons and the other children have been expelled from the area. It did not say where they went. Telephone calls to South Lebanon were not operating and the report could not be confirmed.

## Group demands return of Arab hero's skeleton

BEIRUT (AP) — An underground group threatened in a statement published Tuesday to attack French targets unless the body of an Arab who assassinated a French revolutionary hero nearly 190 years ago is returned to the Arabs.

The threat came in a handwritten Arabic statement from the "Revolutionary Action Organisation, the Arab Resistance Front — the Martyr Suleiman Al Halabi Unit," published by several Beirut dailies.

Al-Halabi stabbed to death Gen. Jean-Baptiste Kleber, a hero of the French revolution, as the general stood on a balcony in Cairo on June 14, 1800. The assassin's skeleton is at a museum in Paris.

The same group last week claimed responsibility for shooting a Polish diplomat and his wife.

"We warn the French government and give it a one-month period as of today (Monday) to return the remains of Martyr Suleiman Al Halabi to any Arab country," the statement said.

"It is essential to warn the French government before we take any action against French interests," said the 40-word statement without elaboration.

The statement did not give any information about Suleiman Al Halabi or say whether it meant the man who assassinated Napoleon Bonaparte's General Kleber in Cairo.

According to various Arab and French historical accounts, Halabi, a Syrian, was captured by French troops and executed in

the following manner:

His right hand was burned, he was impaled, and his body was ordered to be left out 'until it was devoured by birds of prey.'

The execution was carried out in public, and Halabi reportedly endured his death stoically, reciting verses of the Koran and not complaining.

His body remained exposed for a month, then the skeleton was shipped to France where it remains, in the anatomy room of the Jardin des Plantes, a well-known natural history museum in Paris.

There was no immediate word from French authorities on whether security was tightened at the Jardin des Plantes, a popular museum for children and adults alike.

Kleber's embalmed body was returned to France and buried in Strasbourg.

Napoleon's army invaded Egypt in 1798 in the first such European excursion into the Arab World in modern history, but the last remnants of his forces withdrew three years later with no military gain. His scientists brought back a treasure-trove of information.

Last Friday, the Beirut underground group claimed responsibility for shooting the Polish commercial attaché and his wife in mainly Muslim west Beirut and warned Poland against helping Soviet Jews travel to Israel.

The diplomat is still recuperating at the American University Hospital in west Beirut from surgery to remove three bullets from his chest.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### Blast rocks Afghan town

ISLAMABAD (R) — Mujahideen guerrillas set off a massive explosion during a rocket attack on the Afghan border town of Khost, diplomatic sources said Tuesday. They said there was no information yet about casualties in Monday's attack in the eastern province of Pakia bordering Pakistan. The Soviet-backed Afghan authorities have acknowledged the Western-supported guerrillas have made gains in recent weeks in the Khost area, which has been under rebel siege for most of the 11-year-old Afghan war. Afghanistan's official Bakhtar News Agency reported Tuesday that government artillery and the air force had pounded rebel positions near Khost for the past four days.

#### Conference to discuss Europe-Mideast ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath and former Egyptian Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Hijazi will speak on the possible consequences for the Middle East and Africa after Europe becomes a single market in 1992 at a EUROMEA '92 conference which will be held from May 15 to 17, according to a press release received in Amman Tuesday. Organised by Mustapha Assad, chairman of Publi-Graphics and vice-president of the International Advertising Association, the conference will focus on the real implications for trade between the single European market and the Arab and African countries after 1992. The conference will discuss the impact of European unification on the Middle East and African worlds in areas such as commerce and trade, banking and investment, employment and the environment, communication and tourism, marketing and advertising.

#### Rebels say Ethiopian troops in disarray

ABU DHABI (R) — The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the biggest Eritrean rebel group, said Tuesday that Ethiopia was wasting its time talking to smaller Eritrean guerrilla factions with its forces near collapse. Mohammad Omar Mahmoud, head of the EPLF foreign office, said his group was heading for a showdown with the remaining Ethiopian troops in the Red Sea province of Eritrea, and was close to taking the provincial capital of Asmara. "The talks in Sanaa are a waste of time. We will not be bound by their results, even if there are any," he said in an interview during a visit to Abu Dhabi. Mahmoud attacked the four groups led by the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) for starting talks with Addis Ababa, under the auspices of North Yemen in Sanaa.

#### 623 held after Afghan coup bid

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan government arrested 623 people on charges of taking part in a failed coup by former Defence Minister Shahinawaz Tanai last month, Kabul Radio said Monday. The official radio, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, dismissed reports by Western diplomatic sources that 3,000 people were arrested over the March 6 attempt. A State Security Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying 55 of the 623 people arrested had been sent for trial, 58 released and the rest were still under investigation. The radio said General Tanai was among 30 people who fled the country after the attempted coup, in which more than 200 people were officially reported killed and President Najibullah's palace in Kabul was bombed.

#### Servants steal jewellery worth \$2m in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Two Asian domestic servants stole gold jewellery and other valuables worth \$2 million from a Kuwaiti woman and fled the country, a Kuwaiti newspaper said Tuesday. The Al Siyassah daily, quoting informed sources, said the servants stole the jewellery from the woman's bedroom. Kuwait had informed Interpol of the robbery, the biggest reported in Kuwait.

## Chad rebels claim heavy government losses

PARIS (AP) — Chadian rebels Tuesday claimed they inflicted heavy losses on government troops in recent battles along the country's eastern border with Sudan.

The rebels issued a statement saying they had killed "several hundred" troops and taken about 1,000 prisoners in attacks on garrisons at Tine, Iriba and Bahai. "A large quantity of military supplies was captured or destroyed, notably T-55 tanks, 12 reports transports... about 50 all-terrain Toyotas and several trucks," the statement said.

Leading the rebels is a former commander-in-chief of the government forces, Idress Deby, the statement said.

There was no immediate comment by the government in N'Djamena.

The rebel communique gave the first indication of fighting at Iriba, about 60 kilometres from the border with Sudan's Darfur province.

Other reports reaching Paris said the garrison at Guedera also had been attacked in the last 48 hours.

President Hissene Habre's government last week reported attacks by the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion against Bahai and Tine. No casualties or other details were disclosed.

The rebels reportedly are equipped with all-terrain vehicles mounted with machineguns or multiple rocket launchers. Their tactic is to sweep down on a government outpost, overwhelm it and destroy what can't be taken.

France last week reinforced its 100-man detachment in eastern Chad with a company of 146 paratroopers, a transport aircraft and a second military surgical unit.

The Defence Ministry in Paris said the measures were taken "in agreement with Chadian authorities" and conformed with the "dissuasive and defensive" guidelines of French intervention in its former African colony.

France has about 1,000 soldiers in Chad, down from 2,700 in mid-1986 at the height of conflict between President Hissene Habre's government and Libya.

## No change in plight of hostages — Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Demands by kidnappers of Western hostages in Lebanon should be met before any release of the captives, an influential Iranian member of parliament said Tuesday.

"They (kidnappers) have certain conditions which have to be met before the hostages can be released," said Ahmad Azizi, leading the Iranian delegation to an Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Cyprus.

He told Reuters prospects for the 17 Western hostages in Leba-

non, including eight Americans, had not improved despite a call in March by the pro-government Tehran Times for their unconditional release.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in March the issue was moving towards a solution and a Foreign Ministry official said the captives could be freed by the end of this year.

"I see no change in the situation. It remains the same as before," Azizi said.

## Israel denies rush to build settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, rebutting U.S. criticism, denied Tuesday it was racing to erect new Jewish settlements on occupied Arab lands.

"We are not rushing now to build new settlements. We are not going to exploit the situation," Yossi Ahimeir, chief of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's staff, told Reuters.

The U.S. State Department attacked Shamir Monday over reports he planned to speed up settlement now that the Labour Party had quit has government over his failure to open peace talks with Palestinians.

Washington views as "an obstacle to peace" the 70,000 Jews living among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied since the 1967 Middle East War.

"It's disturbing that an Israeli leadership which was unable to

move forward on peace seems ready to move forward on new settlements," the State Department said Monday.

Labour parliament member Avraham Burg Sunday accused Shamir, the rightist Likud Party leader, of planning to speed up five settlements.

But Ahimeir said: "Nothing has changed. We are not accelerating activity because the conditions have not been changed — even economical (conditions). You need money."

The Likud-Labour government formed in 1988 decided to build eight settlements but both parties had to agree on a timetable. Likud no longer has this constraint.

It also controls the Finance Ministry vacated by Labour, which had withheld support for lack of funds.

The broad coalition govern-

ment crumbled last month over Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for the first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Burg said Sunday that Shamir set the process of increased settlement in motion after assuming the job of former Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Shamir caused a storm in January by saying a "big Israel" was needed for an expected influx of 750,000 Soviet Jews over six years. Critics said he meant Israel and the occupied Arab lands.

Meanwhile a new opinion poll showed most Israelis preferred Rabin for their next prime minister rather than Shamir or Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who is trying to form a coalition.

The Teleskop poll of 506 Israelis in the daily Maariv showed 37 per cent preferred Rabin to 18.8 per cent for Peres and 16.8 per cent for Shamir.

## Kuwait groups reject constitutional change

CAIRO (R) — Professional associations, students and trades unionists have backed a pro-democracy movement in Kuwait, urging the emir not to amend the constitution before parliament was restored, activists said Tuesday.

The government has recently said that most Kuwaitis favoured a return to a parliamentary system but under new rules that would prevent a repetition of practices it saw as divisive by the previous parliament dissolved in 1986.

Leaders of the pro-democracy movement fear the government might call elections under new laws that would ensure a toothless parliament is elected.

"The 1962 constitution has become the cornerstone of modern Kuwait and an example aspired to by the peoples of the region for

its relative freedoms derived from Islamic teachings," a joint statement by Kuwait University's seven political student groups said Saturday.

One activist said 13 professional associations sent a separate petition to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Monday calling for respect of the 1962 constitution.

The statement was signed by members of the associations of lawyers, academics, civil servants, university teachers, the labour union and other societies.

It said the societies were launching a "public campaign to enlighten citizens about the importance of retaining the 1962 constitution and preventing attempts to violate it."

The statement also called for the lifting of censorship. It was not published in Kuwaiti news-

papers.

The emir dissolved the last parliament at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy Kuwait.

Earlier this month 31 former deputies, who have led the pro-democracy campaign since last year, signed a statement addressed to the emir opposing possible constitutional changes.

The former deputies insist only an elected parliament can amend the constitution.

They accepted an offer by Sheikh Jaber in January to halt public rallies and open a dialogue with the government on the future of democracy.

But the societies, like the deputies, criticised the dialogue and said it needed "freedom of expression and not imposed censorship."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77511-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Korna  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children's programme  
15:50 ..... Educational programme  
16:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
16:05 ..... Cairo news message  
16:10 ..... Local programme  
16:15 ..... News in Arabic  
16:20 ..... Arabic series  
16:30 ..... Arabic programme  
16:40 ..... News in Arabic  
16:45 ..... Play

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:10 ..... La Valise en Carton  
18:15 ..... News in French  
18:20 ..... Documentary  
18:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
18:35 ..... News in Arabic  
18:40 ..... Laura and Disorder  
18:45 ..... Valley for Sale  
18:50 ..... News in English  
18:55 ..... Guts and Glory

### PRAYER TIMES

05:37 ..... Fajr  
07:17 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:39 ..... Dhuhr  
15:12 ..... 'Asr  
18:01 ..... Maghreb  
19:19 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiffield, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terzianita Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 638326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Another rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 3 / 16  
Aqaba ..... 8 / 24  
Dera'a ..... 2 / 17  
Jordan Valley ..... 9 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammad Abidhi ..... 778959  
Dr. Saad Abu Hatab ..... 744689  
Firas Pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 636705  
Nasroukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Stamelsani pharmacy ..... 637660

**IBRD:**  
Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi ..... (—)  
Al Shamsa pharmacy ..... (985228)  
**ZARQA:**  
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'ad ..... (—)

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 642816  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 83402  
Traffic Police ..... 836390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 608800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 615615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ..... 08-33200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Medina, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsat ..... 661714  
Shamsat Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845645  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 6672719  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612757  
Al-Abdi, Abdali ..... 66616466  
Italian, Al-Malajra ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 66224059  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)965732



## Borders on alert for missing Qasr Al Hallabat antiquity

### Millennium-old mosaic stolen

AMMAN (Agencies) — Thieves have stolen an early Islamic mosaic floor from one of Jordan's desert castles and the Ministry of Tourism has offered a handsome reward to anyone providing information that could lead to its recovery.

A statement by the Ministry of Tourism Tuesday said that the thieves took 30 square metres of mosaic, representing the "tree of life" from Qasr Al Hallabat and the theft must have occurred last Sunday during the rainstorm in Jordan.

The mosaic floor, perhaps 1,200 years old shows a variety of animal, human, floral and geometric motifs dating back to the Umayyad era in the first half of the eighth century AD.

Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti was quoted as saying that an alert went out to border points after the theft

was discovered Monday.

"The mosaic floor was part of the nation's cultural and historic wealth and it is hoped that the public can provide information that would lead to the recovery of the stolen property or to the identification of those irresponsible people who stole the mosaic floor," the ministry statement added.

Qasr Al Hallabat is the most ruined of all the big desert castles in Jordan. Located 25 kilometres north east of Zarqa, about an hour's drive from Amman, the castle was first the site of an early second century AD Roman fort or watch tower that helped protect the western hills and plains of modern Jordan against attacks from the east.

Inscriptions in the castle show that it was rebuilt as a major installation during the



A filephoto of the stolen mosaic

reign of the Roman emperor Caracalla, around 212-215 AD. It was refurbished once again in the Byzantine period and finally reached its height as an Umayyad complex in the centuries 7 and 8 AD. The Umayyad patrons of the castle decorated it with elaborate

mosaics and frescoes.

Commenting on the theft, president of Jordan's Friends of Archaeology group, Rami Khouri, said the mosaic which lay in a now roofless room, was important mainly for scholars interested in evidence of cultural continuity between late

Byzantine and early Islamic art.

"This shows why Jordan should give a higher priority to its antiquities," Khouri said. "The government must give the antiquities department the money and the means to protect such sites," Khouri added.

## Rice deal case goes to court; witness testimonies delayed

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The first case involving alleged official corruption has gone to court but the first hearing was postponed because of non-availability of witnesses, legal sources said Tuesday.

The source said the criminal court of Amman Monday postponed hearing the case of former Ministry of Supply Undersecretary Abdullah Hawamdeh and a local company for alleged mismanagement and corruption because witnesses either did not turn up or were too late for the session, prompting the panel of two judges, Mohammad Samed Al Rakad and Foad Sweidan, to postpone the hearing until next Monday.

No witnesses testified at the

session, but they include Ministry of Supply staff and private merchants. "It is expected that around 20 witnesses will testify in all," said another source. All sources spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

At the Monday session, Hawamdeh, released on JD 250,000 bail last month, and the National Company for Development and Finance, were formally charged, the sources said. Both parties denied the charges.

Hawamdeh, who retired from service last year, is charged with article 175 of the criminal code — abusing an official position for profiteering, and with 80/2, a complementary article. The company is charged as an accessory,

according to the source.

The case involves alleged misuse of funds and embezzlement related to a government purchase of rice in April 1989 worth over \$700,000, official sources said. The exact amount allegedly embezzled is not known.

Hawamdeh and his lawyers, who include Saleh Jaroudi, Khalil Arar and Hisham Al Tal, and the company represented by Ibrahim Bakr will base their defence on the argument that the treasury did not suffer any losses in the rice deal since "prices were properly readjusted after the tender was awarded and the necessary allocation was made," said one of the sources. "The defendants will try to prove that the original tender was not tampered with," the source said.

## More potash exports expected for 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has signed contracts to sell its production of potash from now until the end of September mostly to Asian nations, according to a company statement here Tuesday.

The statement said that the company recently signed agreements with India, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and China to sell them additional quantities of potash during 1990.

The deals were concluded during a tour of these countries by a company team led by APC managing director Ali Ensour.

The total amount of potash to be sold according to these deals, the statement said, is worth \$75 million.

Ensour said the countries he visited in Asia annually import about 80 per cent of Jordan's total potash production.

His tour came in the wake of an announcement here that APC had signed contracts with a major investment company to conduct detailed feasibility studies on expanding the company's production capacity.

APC produced 1.25 million tonnes of potash in 1989 and plans to produce 1.35 million tonnes this year and 2.25 million tonnes on an annual basis starting with 1996.

According to Ensour the Minerals and Metals Trading Company of India had recently signed a contract with APC to import 260,000 tonnes of potash which is shipped over the coming five months to earn the country some \$25 million.

APC is jointly owned by Jordan and three Arab countries in addition to the Arab Mining Company and the Islamic Development Bank.

## Jordan's first private university opens in 1991

By Hanna Darwazah  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first private university in Jordan will open its doors to at least one thousand students in January 1991 with a ten-year plan to provide higher education for 8,000 students.

Expatriates have been discussing the possibility of establishing a national university since the first expatriate conference in Jordan in 1987, but it took someone as dedicated as Dr. Seif Eddin Al Ramahi to translate this desire into reality.

In June 1988 Ramahi received the consent, in principle, from the minister of higher education (president of the higher council of education) for establishing the Applied Science University.

The Applied Science University (ASU), will be a private university which will "enrich the Arab identity and sense of national belonging, raise the level of cultural awareness, and contribute intellectually and economically to the Jordanian society at large."

The university's main student body will be composed of expatriates. Students from abroad wishing to enroll will be expected to pay their tuition in dollars while local students may use the local currency.

"The university plans to make mandatory a certain number of courses focusing on Arab, Islamic, and Jordanian culture, in addition to its emphasis on strong Arabic, English and computer skills required of all its students," according to Ramahi.

"It will endeavour to concentrate on a practical applied approach in all its fields" in addition to its 16 proposed colleges, of which quite a few are new to Jordan such as its college of communication and

telecommunication and its academy of diplomacy, international law and languages.

The university will also offer 2-4 year courses in various technical skills such as electronic maintenance, carpentry, shoe making and so on in its college of further education and technical careers.

"The university will also try to provide scholarships for exceptional and gifted needy students through sports or academic scholarships for example," Ramahi told the Jordan Times in an interview.

The campus will be located on a 1,000 dunum piece of land somewhere in the Amman area, the site of which has not been announced yet. The eventual plan for the campus includes the necessary classrooms, lecture halls, dormitories, cafeterias, laboratories, a gymnasium, a big sports area, a computer centre, a football stadium, tennis courts, swimming pool, and horses stables.

The ten-year plan also includes a university city that includes facilities for the families visiting the students.

Ramahi told the Jordan Times that the buildings of the university will be of a pre-fab or pre-cast type whichever is deemed more feasible and quick.

The university is expected to start functioning in October 1990 or January 1991 with a capacity of 1,000 students. Its ten-year plan however, will allow for a capacity of 8,000 students.

The ASU will accept students from all over the world provided they pass an entrance exam. The successful candidates will then be either accepted unconditionally, be accepted on probation, or be placed on a "founding year" course.

The faculty will employ

highly qualified professors from all over the world with priority given to Jordanian and other Arab expatriates.

A system of visiting scholars will be worked out with other Jordanian universities.

"One of the basic aims of the university is to turn back and prevent the flow of "brain drain", endemic in the Arab World," Ramahi said in the interview.

According to Ramahi, the ASU is a private university funded by the Arab International Company for Education and Investment which will incorporate two sister institutes, one of which will be in charge of the academic aspects of the university, and the other will look after and invest in the university's funds which are to be used to cover any future deficits of the university.

The Arab International Company for Education and Investment held its first general shareholders meeting and elected its first board of directors with Ramahi elected as president of the board on April 2.

The university will have variable quotas of acceptance in its faculties at various times to accommodate the changing needs of the workmarket.

Ramahi said that the university will not try to compete with the existing universities but rather to complement them to offer the Arab student a more qualitative and quantitative choice.

The university will seek to work out a successful compromise between the need to use the English language especially in its applied science fields, and the restrictions placed upon it by the Ministry of Higher Education in using Arabic as its basic teaching languages. It will try to incorporate its own ideas within the set framework.

## Jordan to celebrate earth day with major campaign

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will join celebrations of International Earth Day which falls on April 22 with a major campaign with special emphasis on protection of nature and the environment.

The lead in the campaign has been taken by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. A committee has been formed chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor and includes representatives of various ministries and departments, including the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Public Security Department and dozens of other interested organisations and institutions.

Many activities will take place in various regions in the Kingdom to mark International Earth Day, which is observed every 10 years.

These include cleaning campaigns, conferences, seminars, exhibitions and other activities carried out by school students to focus the attention of the public on the serious dangers facing Jordan and threatening its environment, Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of information, announced at a press conference Tuesday.

One of the highlights of the activities is a drive, with the participation of about 10,000 to 20,000 students, to remove debris

and garbage, including discarded tyres from the sides of the country's highways.

"The plastic campaign will buy all the used tyres with a price much higher than its costs," said Sharaf, vice-president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of the Nature.

"The overall emphasis in the day's activities will be the importance of protecting the nature and the environment," said Sharaf. "There will be some sort of a legislation that will prevent people from dumping garbage in the streets. Furthermore, we have cooperated with the traffic department to initiate the process of having containers inside cars," she added.

## Organ donations — the unseen scene

By Saeda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Only five cases of organ donations by Jordanians have taken place in Jordan in the past ten years. Contribution of body organs has remained a taboo in Jordanian traditions and it was not until His Majesty King Hussein recently raised the issue that the media, along with all societies concerned, brought out the subject into the open, and many people have signed up as organ donors after death.

But, there seems to be very little legitimacy to such undertakings, and too little coordination among the various parties involved to follow up the matter.

In the past few weeks or so, the case of an eight-year-old has become the focus of attention of the local press, the Jordan Television and the radio simply because King Hussein took a particular interest in his case and contributed to send him to Germany to undergo a kidney operation.

Until the case surfaced, the issue of organ donations had only assumed peripheral interest in Jordan, except perhaps for occasional heart and kidney transplants, and "the King-dom's needy have always relied on foreign sources (Denmark is one) for human organs," according to Ibrahim Ayyesh, head of the ophthalmology department in the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Since 1979 until now, "there have been only five operations of organ donated by Jordanians," affirms Nafeth Rasheed Khader, head of the Eye Bank in Jordan, "while more than 300 operations have taken place relying on imports of corneas."

The new found enthusiasm apparently began when the father of the eight-year-old child, Jaafar Issam Al Momani, told the call-in live programme at the radio station about his son's dire need of cornea. Jaafar had been suffering for five years from weakness in one eye and the absence of vision in the other one.

More than thirteen operations had been tried on the boy, but with no effect. He was on the edge of losing his sight until King Hussein adopted the case.



Eight-year-old Jaafar Al Momani and his doctor Butros Tawil and family members.

Radio Jordan publicised the case through its local and foreign transmissions, and several Jordanian listeners in West Germany stepped forward with a helping hand.

A quick response came from the plastic surgeon, Dr. Butros Al Tawil, and his wife Riham, guaranteeing to provide Jaafar with all help and affection needed. A very kind gesture also came from Dr. H. Busse from Munster hospital in Germany with an offer to provide the cornea needed free of charge. The Christian churches in Linen offered DM 1,300 towards the cost of the operation.

Dr. Butros published an advertisement in an Arabic newspaper in Germany to collect donations from Arab expatriates for Jaafar, but only DM 20 were received after 20 days of successive advertisements.

### Hundreds waiting

In Jordan, there are hundreds of "Jaafars" on the waiting list in the Al Hussein Medical Centre and the Jordan University Hospital, waiting for cornea donations, "and still people are so much preoccupied with Jaafar's case, reporting that he had returned safely from Germany after the operation, forgetting that other people need money and cornea

donations other than Jaafar," said a leading social worker who refused to be identified.

The consensus that emerged in Jordan Times' interview with many doctors and social workers is that there is a prevailing belief among the people that donating human organs is something to be avoided since religious beliefs suggest that it may affect the deceased person.

According to Mohammad Khalil, a schoolteacher, "the best way to honour the deceased person is to bury him without extracting his organs or distorting his body."

Experts believe that this misguided belief, widely shared by many, is an area that should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. A pamphlet issued by the Friends of the Jordanian Eye Bank Society, which includes several leading religious scholars, affirms that Islam permits organ donations. It cites Islamic hadiths to support the argument and points out that organ donations could be considered as charity.

In any event, there has been a dramatic rise in offers of organ donations after Jaafar's case hit the headlines in February. "Five cases in eleven years have risen to hundreds in the past few weeks," according to Ibrahim Ayyesh, and even to 5,400 at the Eye Bank in the Jordan University Hospital. But the ques-

tion is: How far could these offers be translated into practice? that's where the catch rests.

Hundreds of calls offering cornea donations clogged the telephone lines after King Hussein offered to donate his corneas, and these offers spilled over to the Eye Bank and leading hospitals, including the Al Hussein Medical Centre and the University of Jordan Hospital.

### 'Lack of coordination'

While the importance of contributing human organs and how much it affects the life of many people has been highlighted in the process, it is difficult to pinpoint the genuineness of the offers and to ensure that genuine ones are followed up, according to many senior officials who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. One of the main impediments in the process is the lack of concerted coordination between the Department of Civil Status, which handles documentation related to births and deaths among other things, and the Eye Bank.

First of all, the donation cards signed by potential donors cannot be considered legal, according to Ayed Hijazi, public relations director of the National Medical Institution and a member of the Eye Bank.

"These cards that the donors fill are not approved officially; we can never know when or if the donor is deceased or not. Officially, there has to be a certain coordination between the Eye Bank and all other societies concerned and the Department of Civil Status," he said.

The problem also partially owes its origins to the existence of separate societies dealing with donations and transplants of human organs. For example, if someone wants to donate all his or her organs, he or she has to deal with three different organisations: The Eye Bank, the Friends of the Kidney Society and the Farah Heart Centre. But the process does not end there; when the donor dies, his or her family has to get in touch with all the organisations concerned in order to perform the necessary extractions; a process which does not allow for any wasted time.

"It is really important that all the institutions unify and form one institution that is responsible for everything," Hijazi suggests. "Once such an organisation is set up, then in cooperation with the Civil Status Department, we could guarantee that all the process will be legal and profitable, and no one, not even the parents, can impede such a process or even protest," he added.

## Minister explains price hike

AMMAN (J.T.) — The high price of vegetables and fruits in Jordanian markets is partly due to a monopoly exercised by a group of merchants, but prices will finally stabilise in two weeks time, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat said in a statement Tuesday.

The minister was commenting on public protests at the high prices of some produce and the absence of some items.

He said that another reason for the high prices and the lack of sufficient amounts is due to the current transitional period between agricultural cycles when limited quantities of good quality vegetables and fruits reach the market.

"In addition, many types of crops continue to be exported under previously agreed deals. These exports can not be stopped since they earn the Kingdom badly needed foreign currency," the minister said.

Arabiyat said that due to arrangements with the Ministry of Supply 42 tonnes of dried onions have been lately imported to meet the shortage on the local markets. "Other consignments of onion, part of which come from the West Bank, were put on the market over the last few days," he said.

In another development, Arabiyat met Tuesday with Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda to review matters related to poultry meat and to ensure sufficient supplies of poultry for Jordan.

## Police nab suspect in Jabal Amman murder

AMMAN (Petra) — Police Tuesday announced the capture of a 25-year-old man identified only as RMA who had murdered a 67-year-old woman in the Fifth Circle area of Jabal Amman last month.

A Public Security Department (PSD) statement said that the man had strangled the victim with a rope which was found around her neck. The murder occurred on March 28, according to the

statement.

The statement did not reveal the motives behind the murder, but sources available to the Jordan Times said that the man who used to work as a guard at a foreign ambassador's residence in Amman got away with a large sum of money after killing the woman, identified by the police only as SJ.

The victim was alone in the house at the time of the murder.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawamneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibitions of paintings and photos that depict the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroideries, ceramics, woollen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qadisiyya Community College.
- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.

### THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Islam and the influence of the Jewish immigration in the coming future" by deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.







## OUT OF FOCUS

## Fortnightly addiction

By Adnan Saad Aql

THE OTHER DAY, I found a colleague totally engrossed in scanning a newspaper, so much so that he was oblivious to my continued attempts to greet him. It took several "subah al khair" to jolt him out of his preoccupation. "I am getting close to it," he said, with a casual glance at me from a deadly serious face. Well, what was that he had missed; an appointment as an ambassador, perhaps? He made a couple of circles with his pen on the newspaper and beckoned to me. "Look, I scrapped it by two numbers," he said, holding one half of a lottery ticket and pointing to the circles in the paper; results of the fortnightly lottery. "A seven instead of a three and a five instead of an eight, and I would have won JD 2,500," he said. "You know, it happens to me every time — a near miss. Sometimes it is JD 10,000 and some other times it is at least JD 500."

Well, he missed only JD 1,250 this time. I told him, since he had only one half of a ticket. "Would it have been had? He peered at me, apparently unable to figure out whether I was pulling his leg. Of course not, I assured him, but then JD 1,250 would not have fetched him much these days, what with the present cost of living. "That's true," he conceded. "In 1987 I could have bought a decent used Japanese car, say 1980 or 1981 model, for JD 1,250. Now, I would be lucky to get a used engine for the amount."

He should be thankful for not having ended up with a used car engine, I pointed out. "Of course, I would have found a million other ways to spend JD 1,250," he corrected me.

He examined his lottery ticket and the winning numbers for a few more minutes, pushed away the newspaper, tucked away the ticket inside his wallet and then turned back to me. Nothing my eyebrows raised at his wallet, he hastily explained: "Who knows, they could have made a mistake and might run a correction tomorrow. I am not taking any chances by throwing away the ticket."

"Do you know that I once won JD 500?" he asked. Did he really? "That must have been some 10 years ago," he recalled, pleasant memories lighting up his face. "I bought a lot of clothes for my brother and myself, had several lunches and dinners out, and still there was a little bit left. Today, a couple of suits and shirts, some socks and underwear, and the JD 500 is gone before you can decide on a restaurant for lunch."

What would he be buying? Gold-branded jackets and silver-lined underwear? I wanted to ask, but thought better of it.

As he sat there, with a dreamy look in his eyes, I could not help but ask: Is there any formula behind his coming up with near-misses?

"I wish I had," he replied. "This is no racing, you know."

"There's one thing though," he added. What was that?

"Ask me why I buy half tickets instead of full ones," he assumed an intelligent look. Why was he buying half tickets instead of full ones? I was forced to ask.

"It is simple; I'm betting on the luck of the guy who buys the other half."

## King defends Iraqi stand

(Continued from page 1)

not only because of its content and timing, but because it contradicts the position which the United States maintained since 1967, that considers Jerusalem an integral part of the occupied Arab territories," he said.

"The pretence on which the Senate based its resolution, which constituted the introduction to the resolution, are a series of fabrications that are scarcely worthy of refutation. They are among the misconceptions that Israel sought to spread, which the successive American administrations since 1967 rejected. Israel's declaration of Jerusalem as a united city and the capital of Israel is a departure from international legitimacy which contradicts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, as well as a blatant contravention of international law which forbids occupying or annexing another people's territory by force," the King said.

"The second fabrication contained in the Senate resolution is that Israeli citizens of all faiths were prevented from visiting the holy places in East Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967. This is a

departure from the truth. Christians residing in Israel were allowed to visit the holy places, and their passage was arranged through the mixed armistice commission. As for Israeli Jews being unable to visit their holy places, that was because Israel refused to implement the article of the 1949 armistice agreement allowing Jordanian Christians to visit their holy places in Nazareth, in return for allowing Jews to visit Arab Jerusalem. Because Israel refused to fulfill that part, Jordan refused to fulfill its part of the agreement.

"The third pretext is based on Jerusalem having been a united city administered by Israel since 1967, where people of all faiths have access to their holy places. This is a very dangerous fabrication that seeks to legitimise a situation imposed by force.

"The Senate resolution is the product of all these fabrications. It contradicts the policy of the successive United States administrations since 1967, and contravenes international law. It cannot serve the cause of peace, particularly because it deals with the issue of Jerusalem, which is one of the most sensitive."

## Iraq calls for Arab meeting

(Continued from page 1)

The official termed Hussein's tough words "a clear warning" and added: "We don't want to give anyone the idea that Iraq would not retaliate in the same kind."

"Israel is fully aware that we have no intention to attack Israel," he said.

In Geneva, Iraq indicated it will not join a global ban of chemical arms unless it is linked to nuclear disarmament.

While denying again that it sought to obtain triggers for nuclear warheads, it charged that the rights of developing countries were being violated by embargoes on transfer of products and know-how that could be used in

the production of chemical weapons.

Iraqi chief delegate Abdul Rahim Al Khatali made the comments in addressing the Geneva conference on disarmament.

Khatali said Iraq can "have every right to acquire the means needed to defend itself." He said a treaty banning the use, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons "would be widely supported if it contains a binding commitment incumbent on nuclear weapon states."

These, he said, should be pledged to enact nuclear disarmament measures "as a corollary to chemical disarmament" and not to resort to the use of nuclear arms.

## Israelis launch satellite

(Continued from page 2)

bomb, might use the issue to launch a pre-emptive strike.

Arens said Israel would seek to mobilise world opinion about the "danger" of Iraq's chemical weapons.

President Hussein's warning dominated the Israeli news. His statement and Israeli leaders' counter-threats led every newspaper and the state-run broadcast stations.

Michael Dekel, an aide to Shamir and former deputy defence minister, said he urged the prime minister to quickly order distribution of gas masks now in warehouses.

An army spokesman confirmed a newspaper report that the home guard, in charge of civilian defense, has prepared instruction videotapes on use of gas masks for broadcast on national television.

The Hebrew daily Maariv reported that the military chief of staff, Dan Shomron, decided to hand gas masks out to the public, meaning an order from Shamir could set the programmes in motion.

Israel's air force bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981 while Iraq was at war with Iran, claiming the facility was being used to develop atomic weapons. Iraq denied the charge.

## Discrimination against women: When will it end?

By Fakhri Kassar

WHY CAN'T a woman go to the passport department and obtain a passport without taking the permission of her father, husband, brother or any other man who is deemed "responsible" for her? And why can't she take permission from her mother — if we approve the concept of taking permission — or any other woman who could assume the role of a mother, like an older sister for example? To be more specific, why does the passport department ask for the written permission of a male guardian and not a female guardian? And why does it need a permission, written or unwritten, in the first place? And why all of this caution over passports of women who

are over 18 years of age? And why are women treated this way, and why are they requested to fulfill this prerequisite when the constitution states clearly that there is no difference between a male and a female, and that all Jordanians, females and males, are equal in the law?

I asked an official at the passport department one day what was the secret behind this differentiation between men and women regarding passports and he gave me a long boring speech which in short indicated that our traditions do not allow the complete freedom of women in acquiring passports. He cited examples of women who left the country without the knowledge of their husbands. "This is not allowed," he said and de-

scribed it as downright immoral.

This official was embarrassed when I asked him: How did these women leave? Did they not use passports for which they originally received permission from their guardians? Don't you think that a woman can behave in any manner she wants regardless of that slip of paper you require before issuing a passport to a woman? And why don't you — sorry, I mean the law — worry about the behaviour and manners of men as you do about those of women? Or do our traditions allow men what they don't allow women?

The Jordanian woman cannot today go by what was accepted for long past decades. She now participates in public work, shares in build-

ing, leads public opinion, and shares in the reconstruction of our country based on democracy just as some men who concerned about the future of this country do.

I am saying this since I am faced with a problem that is not unique in this country. A divorced woman came to me and told me that her daughter who has just finished secondary school needs a passport to complete her education at university. This woman informed me that the passport department was demanding the written permission of her guardian. The husband however, does not want to give that permission and he does not want his daughter to continue her education. The husband feels that the tawjibi (secondary examination) is enough

and there is no need for a passport or any headaches.

Why would a father such as this one determine the future of his mature daughter and why does the law side by the father whether he is right or wrong? And how can a woman produce and develop when she is restrained by the will of the law and the will of men — (and there is no contradiction between the two)? There are huge female talents in the country in art, politics, education and literature, of which some have achieved much in spite of hurdles, but a majority is still hindered and its contribution is limited in light of the current atmosphere lacking in incentives to produce.

I recently read, in an Al Rai sports supplement, of 400 young women who partici-

pated in a race which was held by the women's club on the occasion of International Women's Day. The winner of the race was a mother, a wife, a working woman and a government officer, who does not have a Sri Lankan maid. Her name is Khitam Al Qaddoumi. Such a woman, who gives more than most men, has to get a written permission from her husband before she can get a passport! Why? Why can't women be given their full citizenship rights? I do not know.

The writer is a columnist for Al Rai Arabic daily, and a Member of Parliament for west Amman. The above article first appeared in Al Rai April 1.

## Temple dancers work tourist trade on beach hotel roof

By Bill Tarrant  
Reuters

KOVALAM, India — As the sun sets over the Arabian sea, Hindu temple dancers with garishly painted faces, wearing huge skirts and headaddresses, perform ancient tales of India on a hotel rooftop before sunbathing tourists.

The dancers are presenting in pantomime one of the 100,001 episodes of the Mahabharata, India's great epic of love and war, men and gods.

Tourism is giving a flip to the Kathakali dance troupe, one of many such groups that are finding it hard to survive these days on temple work alone.

Tourism also is working subtle changes in traditional lifestyles in Kovalam, long a favourite of western bohemians taking a break from ashrams and gurus on the old hippie enlightenment trail through India.

Tucked away in the southern tip of India in the state of Kerala, Kovalam has lovely beach coasts, coconut tree jungles, cheap seafood restaurants and cosy hotels.

Hippies still hang out at the main beach. But the audience watching the Kathakali mimes dancers under the stars looks more like the kind of free-spending yuppie adventure travellers that Neptune hotel owner B.K. Das is looking for.

"The hippies are vanishing.

Efforts are on to promote upmarket tourism," Das said in an interview.

But Kalamandalam Sivarajan, director of the Kathakali dance troupe, still has to walk the beach by day, handing out leaflets to sunbathing tourists.

"I am contacting 30 or 40 temples all the time, but so are dozens of other troupes," said Sivarajan, who studied for eight years to learn the 500 gestures of Kathakali. "There are only a few major festivals a year. Money is sometimes a problem."

A Kathakali performance is supposed to last all night. But Sivarajan, whose troupe toured West Germany last year, gives two-hour abridged versions for foreign audiences.

Local people at first objected to having sacred dances performed in a setting where most women sunbathers are topless and marijuana smoke often wafts on the sea breezes.

"But opposition is reducing because Kathakali has become famous after performing before tourists," said Venu Gopal, a Kerala tourism official.

Kovalam remains primarily a fishing community.

Every morning dozens of men heave on ropes pulling in big mango wood fishing canoes, trailing nets bulging with kingfish and tuna, guiding the boats through rocks, swimmers and sunbathers

to a clear spot of beach.

During the November-to-February tourist season, Manoharan paddles tourists around the coves in a boat made of four rubber tree logs tied together and using a piece of bamboo for an oar.

"Tourists are all the time smiling, having fun, spending money," Manoharan said. "Sure it makes us happy, too." He makes twice as much money on tourists as he does diving off rocks for oysters in the off-season, he said.

Kerala has long been known for its Ayurvedic medicine, the homeopathic science practised in India for more than 2,000 years, and Kovalam has plenty of herbal massage clinics.

"You will be taking the message of the gods," Ayurvedic doctor Chandhira Babu tells a visitor in his beachside clinic.

Babu gives up to 20 herbal oil massages a day to sun-fried Western tourists. He has no Indian clientele.

"Indian people already do this in their homes," he said, kneading hot oil into a visitor's back. "Why should they pay money to me?"

Babu returns each evening to his village clinic outside Kovalam to dispense herbal medicines to his local patients.

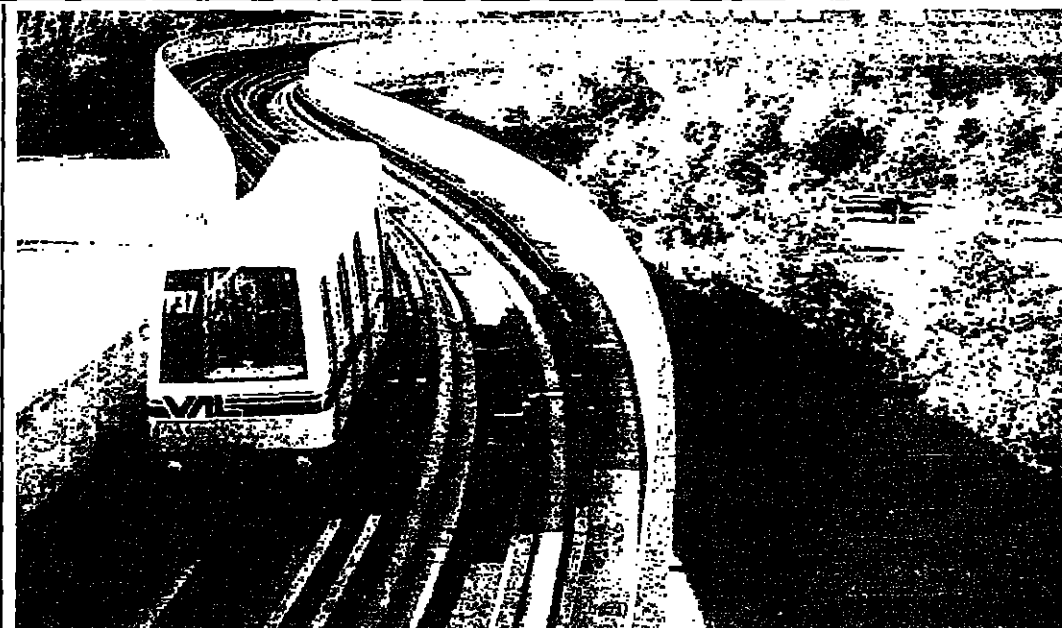
Kovalam is off the beaten tourist path. Of the one million foreigners who visited India in 1988, only 52,000 came to Kerala state and about half of those came to the beach resort, state officials said.

The Marxist Democratic Front government aims to double that number in the next five years by trying what Communist governments elsewhere are doing — free enterprise.

"It is the policy to give all encouragement and assistance to the private sector to hasten the pace of tourism and industrialisation," Minister of Tourism and Communist Party leader P.S. Sreenivasan said in an interview.

The government is discussing projects in Kovalam with several foreign and Indian hoteliers, he said.

Kovalam's one luxury hotel is staying a step ahead of any future competition. It has bought the stone gothic beach palace of the former maharaja of Travancore and is turning the royal rooms into \$300-a-night suites.



## Automatic railway — no traffic jams

By Alain Fanjas

IN THE space of a few weeks, the Matra firm has scored two successes, one of which was for exports, for its light automatic railway system, VAL (automatic light vehicle). Indeed, the cities of Barcelona and Rennes have decided in its favour and are getting ready to start work on building this ultra-modern public transport system which will reduce traffic jams and structure urban growth.

On Nov. 9, Barcelona's municipal transport company asked Matra-Transport for a study of a three-kilometre long line, which should come into operation in 1992 when the Olympic Games open in that city. The line will have four stations and the rolling stock will be the same kind of VAL as that which has been operating in Lille since 1983. The total cost of this metropolitan railway has been estimated at 1.6 billion francs. In order to enable Barcelona to use the VAL system during the Olympic Games, the city of Toulouse, which ordered such a system in 1987, will lend it its rolling stock. Matra's competitors were the Canadian firm UTDC and the Japanese company Mitsubishi.

On Oct. 25, the town council of Rennes decided to build an underground railway system 9.3 kilometres long with 17 stations to serve the town centre. The building work will last from 1991 to 1997 and cost two billion francs. In this case too, the VAL has been chosen. Its driverless sections will run every 2.3 minutes at a speed of 31.5 kilometres an hour. The local authorities in Rennes preferred the VAL to the tram which would have cost less, but which would not have been able to offer the flexibility of the driverless train.

Matra-Transport's list of achievements is becoming impressive. Its VAL system has been operating in Lille for six years without an accident. It has already carried 160 million passengers; 71 kilometres of lines are in use or are being built all over the world. The following towns have chosen this system: Lille, Jacksonville (Florida), the airports of Chicago, Orly and Taipei (Taiwan), Toulouse, Bordeaux, Rennes and Barcelona.

The first metropolitan railway exported by Matra has been operating in Jacksonville, in the United States, since June 1989. For the time being, it is just a modest line, one-kilometre long, with three stations and two vehicles, but the local authorities have undertaken to finance 5 more kilometres, 9 stations and 13 vehicles.

The VAL system is simple. It is a metropolitan railway system running on tyres guided by side rails and operated by computers on board and on the ground. The departure, stopping and opening of doors is programmed. The platforms have landing doors which only open when the train doors are directly opposite. This solution prevents people and objects from falling on the track. When the number of travellers increases, a single operator at a control centre can bring in an additional train section. This flexibility of use, more than the prospect of saving on salaries, seems to convince towns to use a fully automated metro system. Indeed, a handful of employees can keep the metro in operation twenty-four hours a day, as in Lille at the time of city celebrations when the metro proved to be the most convenient and least expensive means of transport.

Moreover, the absence of a driver makes it possible to provide a high quality service and absolute safety, as the suitably designed and programmed automation makes no mistakes. The public is convinced of these advantages and, in Lille, a 65 per cent increase in the use of public transport, in six years, has been noted.

Encouraged by these positive results, Matra-Transport is sending its sales-force to all the towns wishing to settle their traffic problems: Geneva, Milan, Paris, etc... No doubt other town councillors will allow themselves to be persuaded to try the "fully automated" trains in their public transport systems which need rejuvenating and greater efficiency — (L'Actualite en France).

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## Iraq's private sector investment up — ministry

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi businessmen invested nearly 1 billion dinars (\$3 billion) in projects since the government launched a privatization programme in 1987, the trade ministry said Monday.

The director of the companies registration department said that more than 692 million dinars (about \$2.1 billion) was invested last year in new agricultural, industrial and services projects.

The official, who was not named, said 767 new companies were set up in 1989 after the government eased restrictions to encourage the private sector to invest in the economy.

In 1988, 535 companies were established and about 215 million dinars (\$650 million) invested by the private sector, he said.

Most of the new projects were set up by shareholding companies especially to buy government-owned enterprises which were

sold off under the privatization programme.

The announcement was apparently designed to refute Western assessments that President Saddam Hussein's efforts to loosen socialist constraints on the economy following the 1988 ceasefire in the war with Iran have failed to yield significant results.

The government in February unveiled a 24.4 billion-dinar (\$78 billion) budget, the first time it has announced budget figures in eight years.

Industrial development and boosting agricultural output are two of the government's main target areas.

Iraq ended the war with a foreign debt estimated at \$60 to \$70 billion, about half of it owed to Arab countries that will likely be written off.

It has been rescheduling repayments to some of its major credi-

tors while seeking to attract investment to revitalize the economy and bankroll its ambitious post-war reconstruction drive.

Meanwhile, the Al Itihad business weekly reported Monday that President Hussein has instructed the trade ministry to allow foreign companies' local agents to make deals with government departments and enterprises.

Al Itihad said a presidential decree ordered that these organizations can sign contracts with local agents without the involvement of the ministry or other state agencies.

The government last year permitted foreign companies to have agents in Iraq or to open branches if they have business in the country.

The agents are empowered to make all kinds of trade transactions or commercial dealings with Iraqi and foreign companies.

## Soviets will not copy Polish reform model

MOSCOW (R) — A top aide to President Mikhail Gorbachev said Tuesday that the Soviet Union had not decided to follow Poland's radical market policies and was still studying Western and Chinese reform models.

"The situation in Poland is quite different to ours," Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin said. "Its government enjoys the trust of the people and can bring in very unpopular measures with the support of society."

Abalkin told the official news agency TASS the government had studied past economic reforms in several countries including China, West Germany, Austria, Japan and Poland, but none was suitable for wholesale adoption.

"The Soviet government has not taken and will not take any decision to simply adopt the Polish experience and transfer it here," he said, responding to rumours that Gorbachev had already decided on the "Polish model."

The Polish Solidarity government's reforms have been based on "shock therapy," freeing prices and dissolving state monopolies to transfer the country from a centralized Marxist system to a

market mechanism.

Abalkin said the groundwork for Polish free market reforms had been laid over 10 years. By contrast to the Soviet Union's state enterprises, Poland had private farms which could adapt to market conditions, he said.

"If we try to bring in the same methods in our agriculture, which is inflexible and pretty inert, they will above all reduce output and raise prices," he said.

Soviet consumers have become increasingly discontented over falling living standards, empty shops and longer queues that have accompanied Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

But radicals argue that anything less than a radical transformation of the Soviet economy could lead to disaster.

Abalkin said the government's reform proposals would be presented to parliament in the near future.

The economic weekly Kommersant says the government had already prepared a package of 20 measures including price reform, foreign investment and free enterprise, creation of a bond market and new procurement prices for agricultural produce.

## Egypt braces for talks with IMF

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, embarking on an era of privatizing a huge public sector, chaired a cabinet meeting Monday to review International Monetary Fund (IMF) prescribed economic reforms ahead of a fresh round of talks with the fund.

Mubarak discussed the IMF's demands with the full cabinet for three hours and officials said an IMF team was expected back in Cairo in mid-April.

Economists said both sides were eager to reach an accord before the new fiscal year which starts July 1 but there were differences over the speed of implementing reforms that include demands for a free market and a cut in the public sector.

Egyptian officials said the IMF and Egypt were close to a deal, crucial for Egypt to start talks with the creditors to reschedule part of its estimated \$50 billion foreign debt.

Monday's semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper said the cabinet session would focus on "naming a large number of industrial companies to begin the experiment of liberating public sector companies."

The IMF is demanding an increase in interest rates to more than 20 per cent of the Egyptian pound, a rise in the exchange rate and an "actual" floatation of the currency in return for emergency funds to help finance development projects.

Diplomats said Mubarak, who last year described the IMF as a "quick doctor," fears a speedy implementation of the Washington-based fund's demands could trigger social unrest.

Officials said the IMF and the World Bank were also demanding a rise in electricity and fuel prices and a cut in subsidised commodities such as bread, rice and edible oil.

Diplomats say Egypt, which receives some \$2.1 billion a year in U.S. aid, had no alternative but to accept the IMF demands.

## Bank of Japan no longer effective in bolstering yen

TOKYO (R) — Muscle-flexing intervention in currency markets by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is no longer effective in propping up the staggering yen, analysts say.

"They seem to have come to a dead end as far as intervention goes," said Hiroaki Shukuzawa, a manager at Sumitomo Bank. "And they must know it."

The central bank spent a record 1.107 trillion yen (\$7.2 billion) in March to defend the yen in currency markets, the Ministry of Finance said in a monthly report released Monday.

But traders said this huge investment had only slowed the yen's slide.

Based on an average yen/dollar rate of 153.19 yen in March, the bank spent the equivalent of \$7.6 billion in defence of the Japanese currency, the figures show.

"There was a more intense effort at the beginning of the month when they were desperately trying to hold the line at 150 yen to the dollar," said Yoshiro Okabe, senior manager at Midland Bank. "They seemed ready to give up by month-end."

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 159.95 yen Monday against 158.50 in New York Friday, after hitting a three-year, three-month high of 160.35 earlier in the day.

On March 1, it closed at 149.78 yen.

Dealers said there were structural reasons for the yen's depreciation — the narrowing of Japan's trade and current account surpluses, the increase of direct foreign investments by Japanese firms, and the market's impression that Japan was unable to manage its

monetary policy.

Japan's current account, its broadest measure of trade in goods and services, has narrowed continuously for 12 months.

"There is so little reason to support the yen now," said Yuichi Sugiyama, a manager at Sanwa Bank. "History is changing, and assessment of the yen is changing as well. Massive intervention cannot reverse this."

The central bank's dollar-selling intervention in fiscal 1989, which ended in March, was a record 4.756 trillion yen (\$33.2 billion), the report said.

"Even seen at a yearly basis, they have increasingly lost control," said Midland Bank's Okabe. "It's not like the days of the (1985) Plaza Accord, when the market truly responded because then, that was the direction it was bound for."

The Plaza Accord, named after New York's Plaza Hotel, was aimed at driving down the dollar and was reached in September 1985. It was followed by massive concerted intervention among the group of five (G-5) industrialised countries which pushed the yen up nearly 100 yen against the dollar in two years.

Dealers said the BOJ, by clinging to the notion of international policy coordination in managing exchange rates, was now out of step.

"We have entered an era in which each country minds its own policies first," said Satoshi Matsuda, foreign exchange manager at Mitsubishi Trust Bank. "The BOJ looks alone in its fight."

"It's become more and more apparent that the yen's fall has

deep-seated reasons," said Sumitomo's Shukuzawa. "Money can't buy love, and the yen is not loved now."

### Stocks bounce back

Prices on the Tokyo stock exchange rose sharply Tuesday in nervous, roller-coaster trading, as the U.S. dollar dropped against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average gained a hefty 757.65 points, or 2.7 per cent, ending the day at 28,757.65. In morning trading, the index first rose more than 500 points, then fell below the 28,000-point line.

The index rose again in the afternoon as participants decided that the market had bottomed out in the morning, said Yoshiro Inoue, an analyst with Nomura Securities Company.

He said market players expect the index will stay above the 27,200-point level, 30 per cent below where it stood at the end of last year.

Inoue said another encouraging sign was the stability of government bond prices, which remained relatively steady despite Monday's heavy losses in the stock market.

On Monday, as the U.S. dollar surged to a three-year high against the Japanese yen, the Nikkei index plunged 1,978.38 points, or 6.59 per cent, to close at 28,002.07, in its second-largest single-day decline ever. The plunge followed a 1,045.71-point, or 3.37 per cent, fall in the index last Friday.

Analysts said both currency and stock markets were shaken Monday by a report in a leading Japanese financial newspaper that major life insurers planned to shift funds out of the stock market.

## G-7 ministers to discuss Eurobank, IMF issues

WASHINGTON (R) — Finance ministers from the group of seven (G-7) major industrial nations get a chance this weekend to settle critical issues concerning a new European development bank and a funding increase for the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Amid the turbulence on financial markets in recent months, the ministers and central bank governors from France, Italy, Britain, the United States, Canada, Japan and West Germany will also be able to discuss international currency exchange rate coordination when they meet in Paris Saturday.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has made it clear in recent testimony before Congress in Washington that the United States wants to join the proposed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) but there are issues that must be resolved before the United States can join.

A negotiating session on the bank, which would help Eastern European countries move toward multi-party democracies and market economies, is due to be held in Paris Sunday and Monday immediately after the G-7 ministerial meeting.

Under-Secretary of Treasury David Mulford, the chief U.S. negotiator on the proposed bank,

has said the United States does not want the Soviet Union, with its huge economy, to grab the lion's share of the new bank's lending.

"We continue to believe that Soviet borrowing from this bank should be limited for a period of time to the capital they contribute to the EBRD," Mulford said in testimony to the Senate, which must approve U.S. participation in the bank.

The other major industrial countries have an 8.5 per cent share in the bank, but European Community countries would control it with a 51 per cent share.

U.S. officials also are seeking a 10 per cent share in the bank, which would make the United States the largest single shareholder, and a fixed dollar commitment for the U.S. subscription. Mulford said the administration does not want to approach Congress with an open-ended funding request.

The bank is expected to start with about \$12 billion in capital, with a U.S. commitment of \$1.21 billion.

Mulford said he hoped the major issues would be resolved at the Paris negotiating session following the G-7 meeting. But several other issues remain undecided, including the bank's loca-

tion and who will head it. It was not certain those details will be worked out during the session, officials said.

### IMF fund increase

The G-7 ministers will also be discussing a plan that could pave the way for a funding increase for the IMF, according to a treasury official said.

The ministers would be discussing a "carrot and stick" approach to the issue of delinquent loans, or arrears, the official added.

A compromise plan involving the use of gold held by the IMF to deal with the arrears of 11 countries would be discussed at the meeting, the official said. The plan would use some of the gold held by the IMF to guarantee low interest loans to help some of the delinquent countries work out their arrears.

"There are some technical problems but no real fundamental policy issues to work out," he said.

Delinquent countries owe more than \$4 billion in back payments to the agency and U.S. officials believe these arrears need to be dealt with if a proposed increase in U.S. contributions to the IMF is to get through Congress.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Petrochemical plant may cost \$3b

KUWAIT (R) — The total cost of a petrochemical complex which Kuwaiti planners approved last month could be \$3 billion, a senior Kuwaiti economist said Tuesday. He said the original estimated cost of the eight-plant complex of 600 million dinars (\$2 billion) was expected to rise 50 per cent. The official said the plant, to be financed by local sources, would start production in 1994. "Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah wants it to come on stream as soon as possible because it has a major role in backing Kuwaiti industrial and petrochemical projects," he said. He hoped the project would soon be opened for international bidding. The complex, part of Kuwait's plans to boost exports of refined products, will use domestic naphtha and natural gas as feedstock to produce polythene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

### Qatar to cut oil output

BAHRAIN (R) — Qatar will cut crude output by around 70,000 barrels per day (BPD) in September for a major overhaul of its three ageing offshore oil platforms, Gulf industry sources said Tuesday. They said the work would involve shutting down each platform for two weeks in turn while pipelines and other equipment were replaced. It was expected to take 45 days to complete. The three platforms together produce around 200,000 BPD — just over half the small Gulf producer's total output — while onshore fields produce around 170,000 BPD. Qatar hoped the work would boost output at the three platforms by around 30,000 BPD enabling it to reach total production capacity of 400,000 BPD, the sources said. Qatar's OPEC quota is 371,000 BPD. At present, it can raise production to 400,000 BPD but cannot sustain that level for more than a month. The sources said Qatar would also cut back crude output slightly during the second week of April for routine maintenance of the platforms. No figures were available but they estimated the decline at 50,000 BPD. Qatar said last January it had started developing its Diyab field south of Dukhan with the aim of achieving 50,000 barrels BPD capacity by 1992. The country's crude oil reserves are estimated at around 4.5 million barrels.

### Saudi bank reports net profit

NICOSIA (R) — The United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) said Tuesday its unaudited first quarter 1990 results showed a net profit of 26.8 million Saudi riyals (\$7.1 million), a rise of 58.5 per cent over the same period in 1989. USCB said in a statement received in Cyprus that its 1989 first quarter net profit was 16.9 million riyals (\$4.5 million). Net profit for all of 1989 was 95.3 million riyals (\$25.4 million). The statement said loans and advances increased by 29.2 per cent in line with the bank's strategy to selectively expand its commercial loan portfolio. Provision for bad and doubtful debts was unchanged at 7.5 million riyals (\$2 million), the bank said.

### Japan auto sales reach record

TOKYO (AP) — Sales of passenger cars, trucks and buses in Japan rose by 17.4 per cent from a year earlier to a record 5.844 million in fiscal 1989, which ended March 31, the Japan Automobile Dealers' Association said Tuesday. It was the first time that annual sales have surpassed five million, and the third year in a row that new sales records have been set. An association official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, attributed the sales increase to the expansion of Japan's domestic economy, strong personal consumption spending and the introduction of new models. Sales also were boosted by the removal of higher commodity taxes on cars last April when a general three per cent consumption tax went into effect, the official said. He said sales of passenger cars rose 22.4 per cent to 4,287,065, trucks rose 5.9 per cent to 1,534,625, and buses fell 7.8 per cent to 22,792, all compared with fiscal 1988. Sales of imported cars rose by 42.5 per cent from a year earlier to 203,010, the official said. He said Toyota Motor Corporation topped the list of auto sales, with 2,435,986 passenger cars, trucks and buses, up 16.2 per cent from fiscal 1988. Nissan Motor Company was second with 1,385,153 vehicles, up 18.1 per cent, followed by Mazda Motor Corporation with 486,636, up 29.9 per cent, and Honda Motor Company, with 463,526, up 21.5 per cent, the official said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carrol Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Today you have every chance to gain a higher and loftier perspective of eternal truths by concentrating your time and efforts on studies of your choice that will add to your understanding.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Now is the day to plunge into your activities early with the knowledge that they can be done in an efficient manner; later don't upset a friend.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Do what you can to bring out your finest charm and magnetism during the daytime while later avoid spending more than you can afford in pleasure.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Use this day as much as you can to improve your residence so that it glimmers and glows even though later care needs to be exercised there.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get busy at whatever outside duties or correspondence faces you during the day but then use much care on the highway in the evening.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Money and property matters and a new course of action connected with making them more successful should be your outlet until night when use care in expenditures.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Consider now what you perso-

nally desire and you will be able to make it shortly a part of your life but in the evening use care in asking any favours.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Confidential discussions with those whom you trust can bring you some answers that solve perplexing problems; then tonight enjoy a private hobby.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Discriminating and analytical friends and acquaintances can be excellent for pushing your best interests during the day while in evening sidestep one who causes fits.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Tackle enigmatic problems of a worldly or vocational nature that have been difficult today and then look to your own personal concerns.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19) Be openminded and ready to get into some new interests and activities early and through the day but tonight avoid a difficult newcomer.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 to February 18) Sort out your assets and liabilities so you have a clearer picture just where you stand and solve them calmly, then tonight forge the practical.

**PISCES:** (February 19 to March 20) Open discussions with those you regard as partners can bring to light and fruition a course of action beneficial to all concerned.

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Golf pegs
- Davenport
- Card game
- Cockeyed
- Jerabek's husband
- Jerry or Shari
- Go up
- Marsala
- Money
- Floppy united
- Quote
- Begin Dryden quote
- Fountain treat
- Maiden name
- Day or Hall
- \$1,000
- Cleopatra's maid
- Vast time span
- Spacious
- John
- Passos
- Clavichord's descendant
- Coastal island
- Not a
- Pays one's share
- Barometer
- Holbrook
- Cedar
- Conclude
- Quote
- Plot a course
- Exceptional event
- Levitts
- Domitius
- Athenobus
- Transported
- Mean
- Three
- Lives
- Woodland god
- Gauls
- Afr. fox

DOWN

- Bakery items
- Root or Yale
- Red dye
- Using money
- Like some nuts
- Akron's state
- Card game
- Genesta's name
- Scheduled
- Exam taker
- Military acronym
- Quase
- Vane direction
- St. Lanka city
- Taverna
- Sea duck
- Antler tip
- Picasso prop
- Shipshape
- Pine
- Slaughter
- Matured
- Underdone
- Siam visitor
- Promenade
- Sleep
- Lupul
- Contentious
- The Mad
- Renae of
- silents
- Formal
- Real estate
- Hardy leas
- Island
- Command to
- Dobbin
- Red deer
- Roundend part
- Tree burt
- Hardy leas
- Network letters

Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Golf pegs	1. Bakery items
2. Davenport	2. Root or Yale
3. Card game	3. Red dye
4. Cockeyed	4. Using money
5. Jerabek's husband	5. Like some nuts
6. Jerry or Shari	6. Akron's state
7. Go up	7. Card game
8. Marsala	8. Genesta's name
9. Money	9. Scheduled
10. Floppy united	10. Exam taker
11. Quote	11. Military acronym
12. Begin Dryden quote	12. Quase
13. Fountain treat	13. Vane direction
14. Maiden name	14. St. Lanka city
15. Day or Hall	15. Taverna
16. \$1,000	16. Sea duck
17. Cleopatra's maid	17. Antler tip
18. Vast time span	18. Picasso prop
19. Spacious	19. Shipshape
20. John	20. Pine
21. Passos	21. Slaughter
22. Clavichord's descendant	22. Matured
23. Coastal island	23. Underdone
24. Not a	24. Siam visitor
25. Pays one's share	25. Promenade
26. Barometer	26. Sleep
27. Holbrook	27. Lupul
28. Cedar	28. Contentious
29. Conclude	29. The Mad
30. Quote	30. Renae of
31. Plot a course	31. silents
32. Exceptional event	32. Formal
33. Levitts	33. Real estate
34. Domitius	34. Hardy leas
35. Athenobus	35. Network letters
36. Transported	
37. Mean	
38. Three	
39. Lives	
40. Woodland god	
41. Gauls	
42. Afr. fox	

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"The credit company said I have to refuse your card and spank you in front of all the other customers."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLAND YOUNG EXTANT COERCE

Answer: What happened to those executives when there was a takeover at the food-processing company—THEY GOT "CANNED"

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Tuesday, April 3, 1990				
	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	421.5 424.0
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Dutch guilder	349.7 351.8
Pound Sterling	1096.6	1103.2	Swedish crown	109.1 109.8
Deutschmark	393.9	396.3	Italian lira (for 100)	53.6 53.9
Swiss franc	446.3	449.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	190.5 191.6
French franc	117.2	117.9		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			



# Marseille, Benfica clash today Argentina ousts Germany from Davis Cup matches

LONDON (R) — French sharpshooter Jean-Pierre Papin aims to outgun Swedish ace Mats Magnusson when two of Europe's most prolific marksmen clash in a European Cup soccer semifinal showdown between Marseille and Benfica Wednesday.

But while Papin duels with Magnusson in Marseille, Dutch star Marco Van Basten can show he is still the classiest striker in Europe when he leads the attack of Italian holders A.C. Milan in the other semifinal first leg against West German champions Bayern Munich.

Papin plundered his third hat-trick of the season last Saturday to hoist his tally of league goals to 27 as Marseille romped to a 4-1 win over Lille.

Magnusson was also firmly on target Saturday, striking twice in the second half to give Benfica a 2-0 home win over Chaves in the Portuguese first division and raise his personal account for the sea-

son to 28. Van Basten has netted 19 times in the Italian first division. The trio are top scorers in their respective leagues.

Predatory Papin supplied the lion's share of the goals which earned Marseille the French League and Cup double last year and has scored on five of his six European outings this season.

He notched his 100th goal for Marseille in the 3-1 quarter-final second leg win over CFKA Sofia two weeks ago which took the club's ambitious millionaire president Bernard Tapie a step closer to fulfilling his dream of bringing Europe's Premier Club trophy to France for the first time.

England winger Chris Waddle is providing an ideal foil for Papin and scored himself against both CFKA and Lille.

Benfica were the semifinal opponents both Tapie and Waddle wanted. Benfica, like Marseille, are

second in their domestic league but they have not been at their best and could be without influential Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern, who was out of action last weekend because of a leg injury.

Benfica have to look back a long way — to 1961 and 1962 — for their European Cup triumphs, though they reached the final in 1988 when they were defeated in a penalty shoot-out by PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands.

High-flying FSV fell to Bayern in these quarter-finals and the West Germans, enjoying an unfamiliar underdog role, will hope to upset the odds when they take on A.C. Milan in the San Siro stadium.

A.C. Milan will be without gifted winger Roberto Donadoni, effectively barred from the rest of the competition when he was suspended for three matches by the European Football Union

(UEFA) for violence in the quarter-final second leg against Belgium's Mechelen.

Midfielder Carlo Ancelotti, who plays alongside Donadoni for Italy, was injured in the same match and will be another absentee from a side deprived by injury of the exceptional talents of Dutchman Raul Gullit all season.

Gullit's compatriot Van Basten, European footballer of the year for the past two seasons, guided Milan into the semifinals by breaking the scoreless deadlock against Mechelen with an extra-time goal which led to a hard-earned 2-0 win.

Van Basten and utility defender Frank Rijkaard, withheld by Milan from a Dutch international match last week, will play key roles for the title-holders who have lost their aura of invincibility in recent weeks.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — In a wild finish to a memorable encounter, Alberto Mancini defeated Carl-Uwe Steeb Monday in the conclusion of a suspended Davis Cup tennis match. With his victory, Argentina narrowly ousted defending champion West Germany from the competition by a score of 3-2.

"At no moment did I lose control of the match," an exultant Mancini said after locking up his 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-4 victory. "I returned to play at a level I had not reached since last year."

Mancini had won the first two sets Sunday before the match was suspended because of darkness. Play resumed Monday with the third set tied at three games apiece.

Under a warm fall sun and

backed by a roaring, on-its-feet crowd of several thousand people, Mancini dropped his service game. Then he routed the German, taking three games in a row by winning all eight of Steeb's service points and holding his own.

In a bare 25 minutes, the match was over and fans who had been chanting "let's go, let's go Argentina" had red clay on their sneakers and Mancini on their shoulders.

Argentina, which lost to the United States in the 1981 Davis Cup final, advances to face Australia in the 1990 Davis Cup semifinal.

From the first match, the duel between two teams of great talent and tennis tradition had elements

of the unexpected and dramatic. In the end, it was carried by emotion.

Little known Jens Wohrmann, playing singles for West Germany because Boris Becker declined and Michael Stich fell ill at the last minute, nearly upset Mancini Friday. Mancini, ranked no. 16 in the world, played lethargically that day but managed a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-2) victory.

Saturday, Argentina's top player, Martin Jaite, ranked 11th in the world, lost a gruelling, four-hour duel with the hard-hitting Steeb. Then the doubles team of Eric Jelen and a recovered Stich dismantled Argentina's highly regarded pair of Gustavo Luza and Javier Frana.

On the brink of being ousted,

an exhausted Jaite returned to the court Sunday against Stich. The Argentine lost the first set, won the next two, then was routed in the fourth and trailed in the fifth.

At game point that would have put Stich up 4-2, Jaite roared off 10 straight points and closed out the match by winning 17 of the final 21 points.

"When Jaite trailed 40-0, he came back to me destroyed," Argentine coach Alejandro Gattiker said. "He was emotionally exhausted. I told him all he could do was go forward, get aggressive."

Jaite refused to lose. After the match, he stood transfixed at centre court with his racket aloft, crying.

## Olympic chief assesses preparations for 1992

BARCELONA, Spain — International Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch met the organisers of Barcelona's 1992 Olympic Games Monday to assess progress made since preparations got off to a shaky start.

It was the first time that International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Samaranch had personally headed one of the regular progress meetings with the Barcelona organising committee (COOB).

Organisers were hoping that the two-day meeting would improve relations between the two bodies, damaged by Samaranch's publicly-expressed doubts about whether Barcelona would be ready for the games.

Samaranch was expected to make a statement after the second day of talks Tuesday, COOB officials said.

COOB chief Josep Miquel Abad told reporters the capacity of the Montjuich stadium, accommodation and transport were on the agenda.

COOB president and Barcelona Mayor Pasqual Maragall told Samaranch Barcelona would be able to accommodate the 40,000-strong Olympic family but said greater numbers could be a problem. Heavy rain spoiled Maragall's

plans to lay on a helicopter tour of the Olympic sites. The mayor has been moving at a frantic pace in recent weeks to give Barcelona-born Samaranch a good impression.

Besides laying the foundation stones of various venues, Maragall has repaired his relationship with Catalan government leader Jordi Pujol after a dispute over who should pay for some projects.

Samaranch also met Spanish Education and Sports Minister Javier Solana who explained the government's decision last Friday to form a commission of cabinet ministers charged with smoothing the path towards the games.

The setting up of the commission has provided a much-needed boost of confidence for the organisers who are adamant that all essential Olympic facilities will be ready by mid-1991.

Abad said the only venue still to be confirmed was the boxing hall.

He said an agreement was likely on April 21 when the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) visited Barcelona.

Abad said South Korea's Kim Un Yong, president of the IOC's radio and television commission, told the COOB that boxing events should be held in only one ring.

## Las Vegas wins NCAA title

DENVER (AP) — Anderson Hunt scored 29 points to lead the University of Las Vegas-Nevada (UNLV) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA's) basketball championship over Duke University, 103-73.

UNLV ended Monday night's game with the largest margin of victory in a college national championship game.

Jerry Tarkanian, a coach who fought the NCAA in the courts for the past 15 years, guided UNLV to its first national title and Duke continued as the school with the most frustrating of post-season records.

Tarkanian's run-in with Rebels also became the first college team with a preseason no. 1 ranking to win the title since North Carolina in 1982, and the first western team since UCLA won in 1975.

They did it with the style they have made famous — tenacious man-to-man defence — as they rattled Duke, a team known for its savvy and poise.

Duke was making its eighth appearance in the final four of the NCAA season-ending tournament. The Blue Devils went home again without a trophy,

extending the longest streak of national semifinal utility.

UNLV broke the tournament record for steals in a game with 16, eclipsing the mark set by Duke in the 1986 championship game and matched by Oklahoma in the 1988 title game.

Until Monday night, the largest margin of victory in a championship game was 23 points, when UCLA beat North Carolina 78-55 in 1968.

For Tarkanian, the man who sits on the bench looking as though it pains him to watch his team win, getting the trophy capped a long battle with the NCAA, which ordered the school to suspend him for violations. He went to court for an injunction and the case eventually reached the Supreme Court, which ruled in favour of the NCAA.

UNLV managed a 10-point lead just 7:26 into the game as the Rebels forced Duke into turnover after turnover, mostly by stealing the ball.

They scored the first points of the game, and never trailed. Duke, which averaged 17.2 turnovers per game this season, had 14 at halftime and 10 of those were on steals by the Rebels.

The first 10-point lead came on a sequence of four UNLV steals in four consecutive possessions — the last was by Stacey Augmon, who took the ball from Phil Henderson near midcourt and sailed in for a dunk. That made it 21-11.

The lead extended to 41-25 with 3:46 left in the half as UNLV contested every pass made by Duke. The Rebels had 16 points off turnovers in the first half as they took a 47-35 halftime lead.

Duke got within 10 points, 57-47, with 16:24 to play, but the Rebels went on an 18-0 run to put the game away and it was Augmon and Anderson hunt who took turns putting the Blue Devils away.

Hunt shot 12-of-16, while Larry Johnson, UNLV's leading scorer and rebounder this season, finished with 22 and 11 rebounds.

Henderson led Duke with 21 points. UNLV, which beat Georgia Tech 90-81 in the semifinals, was never really challenged on the run to the title, winning its six NCAA tournament games by an average of 18.8 points.

Duke reached the final four with a last-second overtime win over Connecticut but handled Arkansas 97-83 in the semifinals.

## S. African upsets Yugoslav

ORLANDO, Florida (Agencies) — Third-seeded Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa defeated Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia in a first-round match Monday in the \$250,000 Prudential-Bache Securities Classic.

Earlier, fifth-seeded Glenn Layendecker and no. 8 Ramesh Krishnan of India advanced.

Van Rensburg won 7-6 (7-2), 3-6, 6-3 after two rain delays. After winning the first-set tiebreaker, Van Rensburg lost the momentum when Zivojinovic's booming serve began to connect.

Van Rensburg regained control with a fourth-game service break in the third set. He saved a break point and took a 4-1 lead before play was suspended for nearly two hours because of rain.

"It was nice to come back with a cushion after the delay," Van Rensburg said. "He was a dangerous opponent."

The loss was the fourth in the first round this year for Zivojinovic, who has slipped to no. 109 in the world.

"It's difficult when you were so many years on the top," said Zivojinovic, a former Wimbledon semifinalist who was ranked no. 19 three years ago. "I'm the kind of player where, if I win this match against Van Rensburg, I could win this tournament. Now it's just another week."

Layendecker swept Stanford freshman Jared Palmer 6-3, 6-1. Krishnan fought off a match point and defeated Derrick Rostagno 6-7 (2-7), 6-2, 7-5.

Dan Goldie downed Leif Shiras 6-3, 6-1.

No. 1 Brad Gilbert and no. 2 Aaron Krickstein, who led the United States to a Davis Cup victory in Czechoslovakia last weekend, will play their first-round matches Wednesday.

Rostagno had a match point at 5-3 in the third set, but Krishnan rallied to win the final four games.

"That happens fairly often in tennis," Krishnan said. "It just shows you that you need to keep playing until the final point."

Rostagno complimented Krishnan's knack for "little crafty tricks."

"Still, I had the match point," Rostagno said. "This is just something I've got to deal with. I know I can't win every day."

In other games, American teenager Jennifer Capriati outplayed compatriot Susan Sloane 6-4, 6-1 in the first round of the \$500,000 Women's Cup Tennis Championships Monday, as rain delayed play throughout the afternoon.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova of the United States, seeking her 150th career singles title, received a first-round bye in the 56-player tournament and will face American Halle Cioffi, who beat Rosie Casals 6-3, 6-4 in the first round, in the second round.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& YAMAM HIRSHON  
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### U.S. WINS WOMEN'S WORLD TITLE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ A K 7 5  
♥ K 10 5  
♦ 8 7 3  
♣ 9 7 2

EAST  
♠ J 10 6 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ 6  
♣ A Q J 8 6 4

SOUTH  
♠ 8 4  
♥ A Q J 6 3  
♦ K J 10 5 2  
♣ 10

The bidding:  
North 1♠ 1♥ 1♣ 2♦  
South 2♥ 3♥ 3♣ 4♥  
Opening lead: Six of ♠

The U.S. Women's Team defeated the Netherlands in a close match to win the Venice Cup, emblematic of the world bridge supremacy. Representing the U.S. were a quartet of New Yorkers, Kerry Shuman, Karen McCallum, Margie Gvozdenzky and Kitty Behe, and Lynn Dear, Schenectady, N.Y., and Beth

Palmer, Silver Springs, Md. Palmer and Dear were East and West, respectively, on this hand from the last session. Without knowing partnership agreements, it is difficult for us to comment on the auction. In the other room, Kerry Shuman had made four hearts as South when East did not open the bidding and West elected to lead the ace of clubs.

Against the same contract, West led her singleton diamond. East took the ace and returned the four of diamonds—a suit preference signal showing a possible entry in the lower-ranking side suit. In this case, clubs. West dutifully underled the ace of clubs, allowing East to gain the lead with the king of clubs. Another diamond ruff completed a textbook defense—down one.

Suit preference signals are simple to master and effective in many phases of the game. Since they exclude the trump suit, they involve only two suits. If the entry is in the higher of those two suits, you return a high card. Thus, had East's entry been in spades, she would have shot back the queen of diamonds to request a spade lead and not a club.

## RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

## FATAL ATTRACTION

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

## CONCORD

Tel: 677420

## DRAGNET

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

## PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

## NEW KIDS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

## NIJOUN

Tel: 675571

Farid Shawqi, Suhair Ramzi, Farouq Al Fishawi  
in  
**THE SERVANT**  
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

## PLAZA

Tel: 699238

## COMING TO AMERICA

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

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The American Community School is accepting applications for:

1. Counselor/College Placement teacher, must be certified.
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Please call 813944/813946 for an application. Interview appointments will be scheduled after all applications are in. Deadline for applications April 16th.

## AVISO A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS EN JORDANIA

EL CONSUL HONORARIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA EN AMMAN ELIA COSTANDI NUQUIL, INFORMA A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS EN EL REINO HACHEMITA DE JORDANIA QUE EL DIA DOMINGO 27 DE MAYO SE CELEBRARAN LAS ELECCIONES PRESIDENCIALES.

PARA VOTAR ES REQUISITO NECESARIO HACER LA INSCRIPCION DE SU NOMBRE MEDIANTE LA PRESENTACION DE SU CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA COLOMBIANA O SU RESPECTIVO PASAPORTE. LAS INSCRIPCIONES SE LEVAVAN A CABO DEL 27 DE MARZO HASTA EL DIA 10 DE MAYO EN EL CONSULADO DE COLOMBIA EN AMMAN.

PARA DEPOSITAR EL VOTO NECESARIAMENTE SE DEBE PRESENTAR LA CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA, TOMANDO EN CONSIDERACION QUE LOS CIUDADANOS TENDRAN QUE IR A VOTAR EN LA EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA — EL CAIRO — EGIPTO.

PARA HACER LA INSCRIPCION DE SU NOMBRE, O PARA CUALQUIER ASUNTO CONSULAR EN QUE PUEDA EL CONSULADO SERVIRLES, SE RUEGA COMUNICAR CON LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCION:

CONSULADO HONORARIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA  
EDIFICIO DEL FINE  
CALLE AL-HUSSEIN BEN ALI  
JASAL AMMAN  
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TELEX: 21079 NUQUIL JO.  
FAX: 24134 FINE JO.  
FAX: 645669  
AMMAN



## Mandela welcomes crackdown but sceptical over effectiveness

**PIETERMARITZBURG (R)** — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela Tuesday welcomed President F.W. de Klerk's decision to send troops to pacify South Africa's black townships, but demanded government consultations.

After visiting scenes of some of the bloodiest fighting in townships around the white city of Pietermaritzburg, Mandela told a news conference: "We welcome the measures which the president has implemented... but there are serious problems."

"A unilateral action on the part of the government without consultation with black leaders is bound to be ineffective, no matter the merits," he said.

De Klerk announced Monday he had ordered more troops and police in black areas to quell violence that has claimed more than 400 lives since Mandela, the most prominent black leader, was freed from jail and his African

National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups were legalised two months ago.

Mandela demanded the removal of the head of South Africa's police, saying he was "uncooperative and has no sympathy for black aspirations."

He mentioned no names, but was assumed to be referring to Adriaan Vlok, the hardline law and order minister, whose portfolio includes responsibility for police.

"We can see no solution until the man has been removed from that position," he said.

Mandela refused to say whether he would demand his dismissal when he meets De

Klerk in Cape Town Thursday for talks expected to centre on township violence and on the ANC's suspension of exploratory discussions with the government on South Africa's future.

The long-awaited "talks about talks," due to have begun on April 11, were called off by the ANC in protest against the killing of up to 17 black demonstrators by police in the Johannesburg township of Sebokeng last week.

The ANC accuses white-led security forces of inciting unrest in the teeming townships and homelands where most blacks live. White officials counter that black leaders appear incapable of controlling radical supporters.

Police Tuesday reported two more killings in Natal, where supporters of the ANC-allied United Democratic Front (UDF) are fighting Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Movement.

The victims included a special police constable who was decapitated.

Police listed 11 backed or burned bodies recovered from weekend fighting between gangs of thousands armed with automatic weapons, spears and slashing knives called pangas. At least 60 people have been killed in the past week.

Reporters in the area Tuesday said steel-helmeted white troops patrolled some of the worst-hit townships, but police said the reinforcements ordered by De Klerk had yet to arrive.

Authorities said the townships were tense but under control. Mandela, ending a two-day tour of townships, said he saw the shot and burned body of a man buried under debris in the township of Imbali Monday night.

## 31 killed in Punjab bomb attack

**AMRITSAR, India (AP)** — A powerful bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Punjab, killing at least 31 people and injuring 60 others Tuesday as Hindu residents were celebrating a religious holiday, police said.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in Batala after the blast that occurred at 3 p.m. (0930 GMT) when the market was crowded with holiday shoppers, senior Police Superintendent S.K. Goel said.

He said Sikh extremists were suspected of planting the bomb, which was hidden in a parked motor scooter. Sikh militants have killed more than 500 people this year in their quest to set up a separate homeland in Punjab.

Batala is 40 kilometres north of Amritsar, the Sikh holy city. Soon after the blast, Hindu mobs hurled stones at a police station 150 metres from the vegetable market, Goel said but added he did not know if any policeman was injured.

"The situation is very tense," he said. He said 20 people were killed in the bombing and two others

died from their wounds at a hospital. The injured, many of them in serious condition, were admitted to hospitals in Batala and Amritsar.

Press Trust of India carried a preliminary list of the victims, whose names indicated that most were Hindus.

Among those killed were four women and two children, Goel said.

United News of India said the bombing occurred during a procession marking Ram Navami, a Hindu holiday celebrating the birth of Rama, a heroic warrior-king. Rama is extolled in Hindu lore as an incarnation of Vishnu, a member of the supreme Hindu trinity of gods.

The United News report could not be immediately confirmed.

Earlier Tuesday, a bomb exploded on a bus in another town near Amritsar, killing the driver and one passenger, senior Police Superintendent Anil Sharma said. Police blamed Sikh extremists for the blast that happened near Taraguri, 28 kilometres northeast of Amritsar.

Sharma said both victims of the bus attack were Sikhs.

On Monday night, Sikh extremists killed four members of a Sikh family in another part of Punjab, police said.

At Salghowal, 152 kilometres southeast of Amritsar, five or six Sikh gunmen burst into the farmhouse of a Sikh constable Monday night, killing the policeman, his parents and a younger brother, senior Police Superintendent Baramjit Singh said.

Police also blamed Sikh extremists for an attack on a bus Monday night in Uttar Pradesh state, news agencies reported. It is separated from Punjab by Haryana state.

United News of India said one police guard was killed and 11 passengers were wounded when five gunmen stopped the bus. But a second police guard killed one of the gunmen and the others fled, according to United News.

Press Trust of India said police recovered a Chinese assault rifle bearing the inscription "Khalistan Commando Force."

Khalistan, which means "land of the pure," is the name Sikh militants use for the independent Sikh nation they want to create in Punjab.



### Man to set record with 50 children

**RAS AL KHAIMAH, United Arab Emirates (R)** — A local man is trying to set what he believes to be a Gulf record by fathering 50 children, a local newspaper said Tuesday. Salim Juma from the small Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah already has 32 children from eight women, four of them born over the last year, and another three expected, the Gulf news said. The paper said Juma, an employee of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, has complained that his monthly salary of 12,000 dirhams (\$3,270) was not enough to keep his children, his current wives, and to pay off his four divorced wives. Islam allows each man up to four wives at one time.

### Dolly Parton sells house for \$2m

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Entertainer Dolly Parton recently sold her three-bedroom home in the Hollywood Hills, at close to the \$2-million asking price, according to her real estate agent. Miss Parton also has a home in Tennessee, where she spends most of her time, but she is likely to buy another house in Los Angeles after she completes a 70-city concert tour with Kenney Rogers. Miss Parton bought the house, just off the Sunset Strip, about four years ago, and has thoroughly remodelled the place, said agent June Scott. "It was a very personal house to enhance her relaxation, and she liked it so much that at one point she nearly didn't sell it," Ms. Scott said. The buyers were described only as "a local couple."

### 1 in every 6 U.S. women sterilised

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nearly one in every six American women in the normal childbearing age group has been surgically sterilised as a method of birth control, a government report shows. The results of the National Center for Health Statistics study indicate that nearly as many women 15 to 44 opt for sterilisation as choose to use the birth control pill. Figures on abortion were not included. The study, which provides the most recent contraceptive data available, found that 16.6 per cent of those women interviewed had been sterilised, while 18.5 per cent used the pill. In 1982, about 13 per cent of women in that age range had been surgically sterilised. The number of men who chose to be sterilised rose only slightly — from 6.1 per cent in 1982 to 7 per cent in 1988. The study's Dr. William D. Mosher said Monday that the increase in sterilisation largely involves women 30 and older who want no more children.

### Criminals charged for prison stay

**IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)** — Federal judges across the country increasingly are ordering criminals not only to pay for their crime in time behind bars, but to pay the cost of their prison stay. From Jan. 19, 1989, through the end of October, federal judges ordered 254 defendants to pay a monthly fee during their prison sentence, according to the U.S. sentencing commission in Washington. "We see this as merely an equitable and common sense thing to do," said Judge William Wilkins Jr. of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, chairman of the seven-member commission. "If you have the wherewithal to reimburse taxpayers for the cost of your imprisonment, which you caused through the commission of a criminal act, then you ought to have to pay," Wilkins said. Some civil libertarians, however, are objecting.

### Airline smoking ban urged in Australia

**PERTH, Australia (AP)** — Medical authorities Monday pushed for a ban on smoking in all aircraft flying in Australian airspace. Smoking on all domestic flights has been banned since last October, but international flights with connections within Australia are exempt. "It is ludicrous that smoking on Australian domestic flights has been completely banned for some time, yet passengers on international air carriers operating domestic flights within Australia are still subjected to smoking by others," said a statement by Dr. Bryce Phillips, president of the Australian Medical Association. The medical group said it would press the Civil Aviation Authority and state and federal governments to prohibit cigarette smoking.

## Mladenov elected Bulgarian president

**SOFIA (R)** — Bulgaria's parliament elected reformist Communist Petar Mladenov as president of a new, non-Socialist republic Tuesday and cleared the way for free multi-party elections in June.

Mladenov, who ousted disgraced hardline state and Communist Party leader Todor Zhivkov last November, said he would resign from the party's decision-making Supreme Council to steer the Balkan state towards democracy.

"The Bulgarian Communist Party wants guarantees for a peaceful transition to democracy

and also wants a man...who can provide those guarantees," he told reporters before the Communist-dominated National Assembly unanimously elected him.

His swearing-in was the chamber's last act before it dissolved for elections on June 10 and 17.

The elections will complete a series of multi-party polls in five East European states moving to Western-style democracy after more than four decades of one-party Communist rule.

The outgoing chamber also gave final approval to two laws on

the formation of political parties and electoral procedures and amended the existing constitution to make Bulgaria a "democratic" rather than a "socialist" state.

The moves were widely expected after passage on a first reading last Friday that followed agreement between the ruling Communists and opposition on a framework for the elections.

Official opinion polls give the Communists a clear lead in public support over the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), an umbrella group of 13 opposition organisations.

## Cuba deploys helicopters, ships to help jam TV Marti

**HAVANA (R)** — Cuba's armed forces said Monday it was using helicopters and ships equipped with transmitters to back up land-based jamming antennae in its electronic war against incoming U.S. TV signals.

Since the U.S.-funded TV Marti began daily early morning test broadcasts towards the Communist-ruled island on last Tuesday, Cuban military and civilian technicians say they have blocked out the signal in a matter of minutes.

At Baracoa Air Base, 20 kilometres west of Havana, Lieutenant-Colonel Thais Martinez showed visiting reporters two Soviet-made Mi-17 helicopters equipped with transmitters which he said were being used in the jamming operation.

Similarly equipped naval craft were also operating off the coast north of Havana. "They (the U.S. government) have got their armed forces involved in this and so we have too... war is war," Martinez said.

Cuba says the daily three-hour TV Marti broadcasts are illegal and a violation of its sovereignty. Washington says its aim is to promote a free flow of information to Cuba's more than 10 million people.

Martinez said the manoeuvrability of the specially-equipped helicopters and ships was being used to plug gaps in Cuba's land-based electronic defences against the invading TV signal.

Reporters were also shown two large jamming antennae, one in downtown Havana and another atop a hill in the Lawton neighbourhood of the city.

Those residents who sacrificed their sleep to catch a glimpse of TV Marti early Monday saw only three minutes of transmission before the signal was wiped from

their screens by the Cuban jamming.

The TV Marti logo appeared very clearly in full colour at 0345 local time (0745 GMT) and was followed by the announcement in Spanish: "Good morning Cuba, this is Tele Marti."

Two journalists, a man and a woman, then introduced a world news report, beginning with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's handling of the Lithuanian crisis. The TV picture was jammed during this item but the sound continued.

**No government should fear free speech — Bush**

Meanwhile, U.S. President George Bush said Monday in an age when the information industry is not just an adornment to modern life, but rather "the essence of who and what we are," no government should fear free speech, whether it's from entertainment programmes or accurate, unbiased news reports.

Speaking to the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in Atlanta, Bush stressed that the U.S. government's broadcasts to Eastern Europe should continue even though the people there are turning away from Communist rule toward democracy.

With "free stations and newspapers still struggling to take root," he said, the U.S. broadcasts are needed more than ever "to describe and explain our own two centuries of experience in building a democracy."

Bush also appealed to the broadcasters to support the newly inaugurated TV Marti programming to Cuba. "I am convinced the people of Cuba will thank us when they too win the liberty they yearn for," he said.

## Ortega optimistic about peace in Central America

**MONTELIBAR, Nicaragua (AP)** — Outgoing President Daniel Ortega predicts a two-day summit with four other Central American leaders will bring good news for regional peace.

The top item on the agenda was demobilising the U.S.-backed contras, who have waged a 10-year war against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinistas, who were voted out of office in February.

As the meeting began Monday at the beach resort of Montelibar, President Rafael Angel Callejas of Honduras said the contra's top military commander had agreed to disband the forces before Nicaragua's new government takes office on April 25.

In another development, leftist Salvadoran guerrillas and that country's rightist government agreed to meet Wednesday in Geneva to renew talks under the mediation of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Ortega said talks at the first session "were wide-ranging and very good. There was ample discussion about the demobilisation of the contras and the democratisation of El Salvador and

Guatemala." He refused to go into details.

"I believe that tomorrow we will have an excellent declaration to make to the peoples of Central America, who want peace," Ortega said.

Also at the summit were Presidents Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala and Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Arias won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for working out the first of a series of Central American peace accords aimed at ending civil wars in the region. He will leave office on May 8, turning over the presidency of Central America's most stable democracy to Rafael Angel Calderon.

On Monday, Arias mirrored Ortega's enthusiasm: "I am very optimistic we will have a magnificent declaration to make that will benefit the peoples of the region."

A point of deadlock has been the demobilisation of the contras inside Nicaragua and in base camps in neighbouring Honduras before Ortega turns over power to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

## U.S. report shows more cooperation in U.N.

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — Washington has given the United Nations high marks for constructive resolutions but the U.S. annual report on U.N. voting still showed considerable American isolation on a variety of issues, mainly the Middle East.

Calling the current 44th U.N. General Assembly session, which began last September, one of the "most constructive in history," U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering noted that resolutions passed by consensus rose from 58 per cent four years ago to nearly 70 per cent in 1989.

The number of consensus resolutions reflects "careful work being done all around the world" as well as "compromise and flexibility," Pickering told reporters.

He cited unanimous decisions on Afghanistan, apartheid in South Africa, drift net fishing on the high seas and a joint U.S.-Soviet-sponsored resolution on peace and security.

"Name-calling aimed at the United States was virtually eliminated from U.N. resolutions and documents," he said in the 232-page report released late Friday.

The improvement in the report on which countries support the U.S. position at the United Nations came about, in part, because Congress changed the formula for the analysis the president is required to prepare every year.

Consensus resolutions were included for the first time and a list of what Washington considers "important" issues expanded from 10 to 16.

Many have criticised the analysis in past years for exaggerating the isolation of the United States at the United Nations and creating a them-against-us attitude among some congressmen seeking to cut foreign aid and U.S. contributions to the world body.

## Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	12	17	Cloudy
ATHENS	12	24	70 Clear
BANGKOK	19	28	70 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	28	32	82 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	14	25	57 Fair
CAIRO	10	21	70 Cloudy
CHICAGO	07	13	55 Clear
COPENHAGEN	08	13	50 Clear
FRANKFURT	04	28	19 Clear
GENOVA	03	27	19 Clear
HONG KONG	21	27	81 Clear
ISTANBUL	05	15	61 Clear
LONDON	12	14	55 Rain
LOS ANGELES	13	19	66 Clear
MADRID	08	19	66 Rain
MEXICO	19	26	65 Cloudy
MONTREAL	02	10	50 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-03	27	08 Clear
NEW DELHI	16	21	63 Clear
NEW YORK	06	12	50 Fair
PARIS	08	13	64 Cloudy
ROME	05	11	22 Clear
SYDNEY	05	11	22 Clear
TOKYO	12	14	59 Cloudy
VIENNA	07	16	20 Clear

M - indicates missing information.

## Bombs rock Greek cities ahead of elections

**ATHENS (R)** — A series of bomb explosions rocked Athens and the northern city of Salonika Tuesday injuring a police officer and causing damage to government and union buildings ahead of national elections Sunday.

An anonymous caller told newspapers the extreme-left guerrilla group Revolutionary Popular Struggle (ELA) and May 1st placed the bombs. It was the first time the two groups jointly took responsibility for bomb attacks.

The time-bombs went off outside the Economy Ministry, the General Confederation of Greek Workers and the Federation of Greek Industries in central Athens. One policeman patrolling the area was taken to hospital with cuts from broken glass.

Another bomb caused serious damage to the building of the Federation of Northern Greek Industries in Salonika.

ELA and May 1st have waged a bombing campaign in recent years against government buildings, police stations and private businesses. May 1st guerrillas shot dead a public prosecutor in January 1989.

The bomb explosions were the latest in a series of violent incidents in the run-up to national elections on April 8. On Sunday a man was shot dead in clashes between supporters of rival political parties on the island of Crete.

Last Tuesday time bombs destroyed a number of cars belonging to diplomats of Eastern European countries.

Despite the decline of Communism elsewhere in Europe, Greek Communists are hoping to grab a share of power in Sunday's elections.

## START treaty may leave most weapons intact

**WASHINGTON (R)** — A new U.S.-Soviet treaty due to be completed and signed this year will fall far short of the mutually-declared goal of halving each side's nuclear arsenal, the Washington Post reported Tuesday.

The treaty, described as in the final stages of negotiation, would allow continued deployment of nearly as many U.S. warheads as now exist, the paper said, quoting Bush administration officials and independent experts.

Negotiations on the so-called Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) began eight years ago. Senior officials were quoted as saying none of the remaining disputes involve the overall number of warheads the sides might deploy.

"Virtually none of the U.S. strategic weapons produced during the last decade of intensive modernisation must be eliminated under the treaty," the Post said.

Production of thousands more U.S. nuclear-tipped cruise missiles, submarine-launched missiles and aircraft-delivered bombs was "not constrained," said the Post.

The agreement would sharply curtail Moscow's arsenal of large, land-based missiles carrying multiple nuclear warheads and based in easily targeted underground silos, it said.

As recently as last year, the foreign ministers of each country again spoke of that goal.

On May 5, 1989, Secretary of

But deployment of newer, mobile land-based missiles and of more modern submarines could continue, and the Soviet bomber fleet and cruise missiles and cruise missile arsenal could also be expanded.

A White House spokesman, Laura Mellillo, had no comment on the report.

Both Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and former U.S. President Ronald Reagan had spoken of 50 per cent cuts in strategic arms as a goal of the future START treaty.

As recently as last year, the foreign ministers of each country again spoke of that goal.

On May 5, 1989, Secretary of

State James Baker said, "the 50 per cent cut, which is embodied in our approach to the strategic arms talks, substantiates the promise of arms reductions."

On Sept. 23, 1989, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said, "the preparation and signing of the treaty on the 50 per cent reductions in strategic offensive arms now appear to be quite a realistic prospect."

The START treaty was to be a central topic of talks in Washington Wednesday and Thursday between Baker and Shevardnadze. They were to prepare for a Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting expected to take place in Washington this summer.

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## Argentines still want Falklands 8 years after war

**BUENOS AIRES (R)** — Argentines still want the Falkland Islands, eight years after they fought and lost a war with Britain over the South Atlantic territory, but they are willing to recover the islands through peaceful means.

Speaking on the eighth anniversary of the April 2, 1982 Argentine invasion of the Falklands, Defence Minister Humberto Romero said Monday that the government of President Carlos Menem wanted to resolve the dispute peacefully.

"More has been accomplished through peaceful methods than was achieved with forceful actions," he said at a memorial service for the 1,000 servicemen killed in the 10-week war.

Army Chief of Staff General Martin Bonnet also made a speech marking the anniversary of the invasion of the British-ruled islands, which Argentines

know as the Malvinas.

"On April 2, 1982, the sovereignty claim over the Malvinas Islands, carried out through peaceful methods for many years, took a military form to produce something really beyond our understanding," he said.

Argentina and Britain restored full diplomatic relations in February after a speedy fence-mending campaign launched by Menem shortly after he took office in July.

All restrictions on commerce, finance and transportation were lifted in October, a move that Menem's government hopes will help Argentina's foreign trade.

The warming of links between London and Buenos Aires helped Argentina secure a new trade and cooperation agreement with the European Community after eight years of cool relations.

The agreement will help

Argentina diversify its exports to the community, eliminate trade barriers and have access to economic cooperation from the EC.

Most Argentines agreed with Menem's policy regarding Britain but still hold that the Falklands and other South Atlantic islands, controlled by the United Kingdom, are really Argentine territory.

"I understand and identify with what the government has done to improve commercial relations with Britain because it is for the good of the country," Malvinas veteran Eduardo Acosta, 27, told Reuters.

"Eight years after the war we still think the same. The islands were ours, they are ours and they will always be ours," said Acosta, assistant director of a war veterans organisation.

Anglo-Argentines whose forefathers came here last century have mixed feelings about the

war and are generally reticent to talk about the war but are pleased with improved relations.

"Things have really improved since President Menem came on board," British-Argentine Chamber of Commerce President George Forrester told Reuters.

Forrester said some Anglo-Argentines sided with Britain while others supported Argentina's claims, but added that the war evoked "a very sad feeling because most people had friends and relations on both sides."

"Now we ought to press on to get back to where we were before the war, when Britain was an important trade partner for Argentina and when we had many contacts with the islands."

Argentines will be able to see their former foe's view of the conflict for the first time when a private television station airs a British-made programme on the war Monday night.